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The Internet's image problem
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PM: Peace in 'virtual collapse'

Arab FMs call for halt to normalization

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday the Palestinian Authority's approval of terrorism against Israel has brought the peace process to a state of "virtual collapse."

Speaking on CBS television's *Face the Nation* for the second Sunday in a row, Netanyahu charged the Palestinian Police with both encouraging and later only seeming to quell last week's demonstrations. He also said PA Chairman Yasser Arafat "is able to control and quell all violence."

"I think we have had here a virtual collapse of the peace process," Netanyahu said. "We reach in the course of negotiations periodic points of impasse, of conflict, of disagreement... What we have found, though, in this case, is that the Palestinian side unleased terrorism as a weapon of negotiations, and that is something we cannot accept."

In Cairo, meanwhile, after hearing an emotional appeal by Arafat, Arab foreign ministers yesterday approved an Egyptian-sponsored resolution that recommends halting all steps toward normalizing relations with Israel, in response to Israeli settlement policies.

Arafat said Israel had declared war on the Palestinian people by surrounding Palestinian areas with tanks in response to protesting Palestinians throwing stones. He described Israel's actions as "a declaration of war... against an unarmed people."

Netanyahu said he doubts Arab nations would cut ties to Israel because of continuing street battles between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians demonstrating against Har Homa.

"I would urge the Arab countries to think of their larger interests, their longer interests, as I urge the Palestinians for the necessity of peace," he said. "I don't think they would do it, and if they did it would cost them as much as it costs us."

In Israel and the territories, Land Day passed relatively quietly, despite two women being lightly hurt when their bus was stoned in Jaffa. The main marches and rallies organized by the Arab leadership in Sakhnin, Arraba, and Kafr Kana in the Galilee, as well as in Jaffa, Umm el-Fahm, and the central event at Abu Taloul in the Negev, ended without disturbances.

Land Day around the country, Page 2

Stone-throwing incidents were reported in Nazareth, near the entrance to Kafr Kana, around Taiba and Jaljuliya in the Triangle, and in Jaffa. Police arrested seven youths in Nazareth and 19 in the Triangle.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani praised the Israeli Arab community for expressing its protest in a mature and responsible manner.

"The day passed in a way that the Arab community in Israel proved once again that it is united behind its leadership and that it can express its protests in a cultured, ordered, and legitimate manner," said Abed Initawi, spokesman for the Arab leadership's monitoring committee.

"The main themes for the day were to press for full equality for Arab citizens and for the continuation of the peace process. We expressed our stance and did not allow the incitement of the Israeli right-wing and elements connected to the government and the secu-

Continued on Page 7

Knesset to debate conversion bill today

By LIAT COLLINS and HAIM SHAPIRO

Barring a last-minute compromise, the Knesset is expected today to hear the first reading of the conversion bill, which would restrict recognition for conversions to Judaism in Israel to those approved by the Chief Rabbinate.

In an apparent attempt to diffuse criticism from Diaspora Jewry, Prime Minister Netanyahu yesterday told an Anti-Defamation League delegation he would "never allow a move that would delegitimize ... Reform or Conservative Judaism."

Netanyahu said he would rather let his government collapse than negate conversions performed abroad. However, he criticized what he said was an effort to change the status quo, under which non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad had been accepted, but not those conducted in Israel. He said there was a great deal of disinformation being spread among American Jewry regarding the conversion issue.

Several Knesset factions are to hold their weekly meetings on the bill before the vote, and Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg is to meet separately with the opposition and coalition to discuss the agency's opposition to it.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid is demanding the Knesset also vote on a bill recognizing non-Orthodox streams of Judaism. Tsomet is demanding the bill contain a clause stating that Israel recognizes non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad. One version of the bill, favored by the religious parties, would not recognize even these.

MKs Ze'ev Begin (Likud) and Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) are calling on the religious parties to back down from their demand that there be a vote today and continue talks on a possible compromise solution.

The religious parties are demanding the bill be raised now, because the High Court of Justice

Continued on Page 7

Marchers mark Land Day in Jaffa yesterday. In general, the day passed without major incident. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Uproar over officer's slur against Ethiopian soldier

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN, LIAT COLLINS, and Him

The Prime Minister's Office, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, leaders of the Ethiopian Jewish community, MKs, and others were up in arms yesterday over a report that an IDF major had barred an Ethiopian-born soldier from an army clinic.

According to a report on Israel Radio, soldier Avi Afemare was serving with a Golani unit on the Hermon when he came to the clinic for treatment. Ordnance Maj. Michael Valitzkin, who was in the clinic at the time along with a doctor and some medics, grabbed Afemare, pushed him outside, and told him: "This place isn't for you."

He then told the doctor on duty, Capt. Igor Plotkin, "We need to put up a sign here saying: 'No kushim [blacks] allowed.' In the colonies, we wouldn't allow kushim in." Plotkin and the others reportedly did not respond to Valitzkin's actions or remarks.

Officer: Name-calling was a joke, Page 3

Afemare, who left the clinic in tears wondering why he had been so humiliated, reportedly did not file a complaint about the incident because he thought no one would believe him. Word of the incident reached Valitzkin's commander, who questioned him but let him off with a severe reprimand.

"What is shocking here is the way these two [Valitzkin and the doctor] acted in concert," Shlomo Mula, secretary of the United Ethiopian Jewish Association, said yesterday. The organization has asked the IDF to establish a board of inquiry to examine the way Ethiopian immigrant soldiers are treated.

"A doctor should have treated a person just because he's a person, and instead he just kept quiet," said Mula. "I think that this reflects something which is much more deep-rooted in Israel society. Perhaps tomorrow this same officer will differentiate between Druse and Jewish soldiers, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, blue-eyed or brown-eyed ones. There's no end to it."

Mula said the organization would petition the High Court of Justice to have Valitzkin reduced in rank to private and brought up on criminal charges, if the army does not do this itself.

"An officer of this kind has no place in the IDF," said Mula. "And while it's good that his commander brought him up on charges, what kind of punishment did he get? I am astonished by it. What's a severe reprimand? The IDF is not getting to what is happening in the army. If the army does not put him on trial, and the doctor's license is not revoked, then we are living in a racist country."

Continued on Page 7

Politicians target end to direct elections

By SARAH HONIG

A number of prominent Likud and Labor Party figures yesterday announced the formation of an extra-parliamentary group that will work to repeal the law for the direct election of the prime minister.

The group will be headed by the Likud's Moshe Arens. Also taking part from the Likud is former minister Moshe Nissim and MK Uzi Landau. Labor is represented by MKs Yossi Beilin, Ephraim Sneh, and Moshe Shahal.

The direct election law came into effect last summer. It was backed by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and opposed by Shimon Peres.

The Likud was against direct elections, but Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu broke party discipline to vote for it in the last Knesset.

"The direct election system is dangerous and even many of those who had ardently campaigned for it are now changing their minds," Arens said yesterday.

Beilin said "the direct election law is one of the most terrible and utterly misleading pieces of legislation ever passed by the Knesset. It is anti-democratic."

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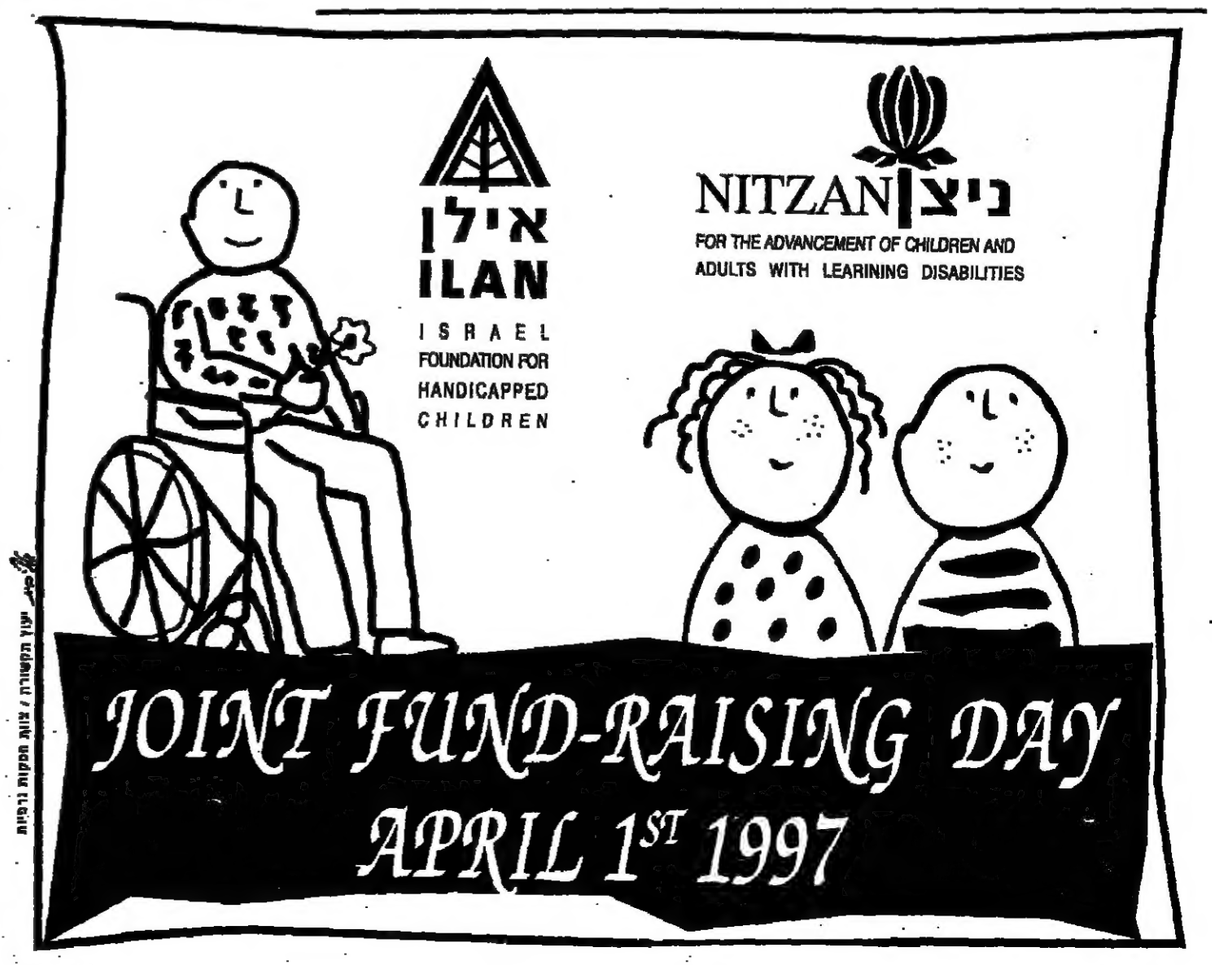

'We can't ignore our identity'

Israeli Arabs blast Har Homa on Land Day

By DAVID RUDGE

The gray monument at the entrance to the cemetery in Sakhnin in the Galilee is designed to depict the struggle of Israeli Arabs to protect their land.

The inscriptions in Hebrew and English read simply: "In memory of those who fell on Land Day." The Arabic is somewhat more descriptive.

"It says that they died so that we can live, and that their spirit lives on," said Leithey Ghanaiyim, reading the memorial for the six Israeli Arabs – three of them from Sakhnin – who died in clashes with security forces in the demonstrations in 1976 against the expropriation of 20,000 dunams of land in the Galilee.

The annual commemoration of the day has usually passed relatively quietly, as it did yesterday – despite the general strike declared by the Arab leadership and fears that violence in the territories might spill across the Green Line.

The decision to call a general strike was primarily a protest against the government's "settlement policies," which Arab politicians and council heads have charged are threatening the peace process.

"We are loyal citizens of the state, but we are also part of the Palestinian people and we cannot deny our identity nor our nationality," said Ghanaiyim.

"We fully support the peace process, but the building by the government at Har Homa and its attempts to separate the territories from Jerusalem by building towns around Jerusalem is totally unacceptable to us.

"At the same time, as Arab citizens we are still being discriminated against. I don't just relate to what's happening at Har Homa, but here in my hometown Sakhnin and what we have compared to our neighbors in Misgav and Karmiel. There's no comparison," he said.

His comments were echoed by father of eight Ahmed Khaleileh, who works for the Sakhnin Municipality. "In a town with a population of 21,000 people, we have a municipality housed in a rented building and offices in prefabricated huts," said Khaleileh.

"The municipality has put forward plans to widen the main road that runs through the town and improve safety by erecting barriers and widening the sidewalks, but there's no money for this," he added.

"Despite all this, however, we feel we are an integral part of the state. When the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin came to visit he said he felt safer in Sakhnin than in Tel Aviv. Unfortunately he was right," Khaleileh. "When he was assassinated we cried. We felt more Israeli than some Israelis."

Eisenberg laid to rest

The family of Shoul Eisenberg leads the procession at his burial in Savyon Cemetery yesterday. Finance Minister Dan Meridor eulogized Eisenberg on behalf of the government. 'Eisenberg made Israel the base of his activity and in so doing made a critical contribution to the Israeli economy and to opening markets we had not known before,' Meridor said. (Dana Sternau/Israel Sun)

Quiet day in Rahat

By HERB KEINON

Carrying three Palestinian flags and singing the Palestinian anthem, a group of some 50 protesters walked past stores and offices shuttered by a strike in Rahat yesterday. They marched to the city's central park, where they held an impromptu Land Day rally.

The majority of the protesters were students from Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, not Rahat residents.

City manager Salam Alatika bristled at the classification of Rahat as a Beduin city. "We are all Arabs," he said. "We are Palestinians. We are Israeli Arabs, but we are Palestinians."

Alatika said that unlike previous years, this Land Day was marked by a nearly complete strike.

"Because of the tension in the territories, people decided to strike and identify with their brethren," Alatika said.

A municipal worker who would only identify himself as Mahmoud said there is a great deal of bitterness in Rahat.

"The conditions here are dreadful," he said. "If a Jew needs a home, he will pitch a tent in front of the Knesset, and in a matter of days his living conditions will be taken care of. We have pitched a tent for 40 years, and nothing has moved."

Deputy mayor Talil Ranawi, who organized five buses to take Rahat residents to the central Land Day Negev ceremony at a Beduin encampment north of Dimona, said one of the reasons there was no trouble was because Rahat officials made an agreement with the police that they would control the town, if the police did not enter.

Peaceful demo in Jaffa

By RAINE MARCUS

Only a few hundred Jaffa residents participated in a brief Land Day procession yesterday, which passed quietly.

By 2:30 p.m. Jaffa's streets were nearly empty, with most offices and stores closed and only a few bakeries and restaurants remaining open. Most residents seemed to have stayed home.

The police adopted a low-profile policy, with senior officers convening out of sight in the Jaffa station and officers on scooters and in vans strategically deployed around the area. On Rehov Shivtei Yisrael two policemen were stationed every 200 meters; but in nearby alleys, larger forces gathered in case of violence, ready to arrive within minutes. Their riot equipment proved unnecessary.

Apparently, dialogue among police, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, and Jaffa's leaders helped. Residents equipped with walkie-talkies were deployed along Rehov Yefet, the main street, to ensure the procession passed peacefully.

Shosh, a Jewish resident, said she hoped the police would not provoke confrontations. "Usually massive forces of violent Border Police ignite the residents here," she said.

Waving green Islamic Movement flags, the procession made its way down Rehov Yefet, as participants chanted Arabic slogans; mostly concerning Land Day, but some expressing more extreme political opinions. "Return Har Homa to its owners, and not to Bibi and his dogs," was one chant heard.

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Officer: Slur was joke

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The commander of the brigade whose Maj. Michael Valitzkin called an Ethiopian soldier seeking medical aid a racial slur, said it was a grave, but isolated incident that does not reflect the true sentiments toward minorities in the IDF.

"The moment I heard of the incident I decided to try the officer," said Col. Nitzan, head of the Hermon Brigade. "But the incident occurred three months ago and I dealt with it. Only now it's being linked with other matters."

The colonel was referring to reports last week of three suicides by Ethiopian soldiers in one month, allegedly because they were mistreated or subjected to racism. In this case, Valitzkin insists the incident involving his racial insult to Ethiopian-born soldier Avi Afemare was all a joke, Nitzan said.

"The officer claimed to me that he and the Ethiopian soldier were buddies and that he had taken him under his wing in the brigade. He made sure he was fed and sat with him over coffee. In the framework of this friendship they developed a sort of black humor. He said he said the things in jest without any intention to harm the soldier.

"None of this was acceptable to me and I decided to punish him with a reprimand," Nitzan said. He defended his punishment, saying it was a serious blow to the major's record and that the only alternative was to dismiss him. He also said Valitzkin deeply regretted the incident.

Nitzan said Valitzkin told him Afemare would call the major "Russi" because he was a Russian immigrant and Valitzkin would call Afemare "Ethiopi." Nitzan noted Afemare did not complain about the incident and said he learned of it from a third party who witnessed it. He stressed that Afemare received medical attention, contrary to reports.

"It was an isolated incident and we dealt with it. It was very grave and we need to condemn any racist comment," said Nitzan. "It doesn't matter if it was over an Ethiopian or a Russian or anything else. Every soldier needs to feel he is respected."

ILAN launches annual fund drive

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert makes the first contribution to the annual ILAN (Israel Association for Physically Disabled Children) fund-raising drive, the March of Prutot, which begins tomorrow. Schoolchildren will knock on doors around the country. (Brian Hendler)

Use of Ethiopian blood to be decided case-by-case

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza met yesterday with Ethiopian *kesim* (religious leaders) and "reached an understanding" that blood from "donors who would endanger the health of the recipient" would not be used for transfusion.

Magen David Adom physicians will decide this on a case-by-case basis. Other groups, besides individual Ethiopian immigrants, would be regarded as presenting a high-risk for AIDS, ministry spokesman Effie Lahav said.

Matza did not meet with the political leadership of the community, which has been much more militant than the *kesim* on the issue.

Asked whether Matza was adopting the recommendations of the Navon Committee, which last year met for months to discuss the blood donation issue, Lahav said the ministry "has not completed discussions of the Navon report."

He did not explain why the political leadership was not invited to the meeting with Matza.

Commenting on the Israel Radio report about an Ethiopian immigrant soldier who was denied treatment at a military clinic, Matza said that the officer should be ejected from the IDF and not only reprimanded.

"The *kesim* are not authorized to make decisions regarding the blood affair," said Shlomo Mula, secretary of the Ethiopian Immigrant Association. "Matza is trying to push a wedge between parts of the community and cause disagreements among them. The Navon Committee recommendations are to be discussed within a month with our organization. If the minister wants to accomplish something, he should take action regarding the incident in the IDF."

Peres wants to meet Barak on national unity government

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres will try to meet again with his would-be successor Ehud Barak this week. He hopes to convince him to tone down, if not drop his vehement opposition to the national unity government.

This would be their second meeting on the issue.

Peres recently met with Barak, who did not budge from his anti-national unity stance. This week's meeting is also being arranged by Giora Einy, who for years mediated in Peres's feuds with the late Yitzhak Rabin.

Peres, meanwhile, is energetically continuing his campaign to win party support for entering the coalition. He is meeting with groups of central committee members and tomorrow will host a gathering of local authority heads.

Peres's activity comes even though Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has not issued an invitation to Labor and has ruled out a national unity government as a "practical option right now."

In his own series of contacts with ministers and coalition partners, Netanyahu contacted United Torah Judaism MKs and stressed that "all the talk of an imminent national unity coalition is gibberish."

Inside the Likud, the view is that even if anyone around Netanyahu had considered testing the national unity waters, the adverse reactions to reports of portfolio allocations to Labor at the Likud's expense should have thoroughly chilled any ardor Netanyahu may have had for the idea.

In Labor, Peres's unabated and explicit advocacy of national unity has led MK Haggai Merom to warn: "Attempts to bring Labor into the Netanyahu government could well lead to the collapse of the current leadership race and destroy Barak's chances to win the premiership. All this could lead thousands to quit the party and cause a split in its Knesset faction. When its all over Labor will cease being a viable alternative to the Likud."

17-year-old runs community center

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

While her friends are out babysitting, partying, or learning how to drive, 17-year-old Einat Hasson of Rehovot has something else to keep her busy: running the local Ofek community center.

Hasson, a live-wire who turned a former shelter into a fully functioning after-school center for Rehovot youth, is the youngest director of such a center in the country, according to Rehovot Municipality officials. Hasson runs the place along with 40 other youngsters.

"I had this shelter, which was in decent shape but needed work, but no workers to run it," recalls Moshe Attias, the head of the children and youth wing in the city's community center (*matnas*) division.

Attias remembered the fiery Hasson, who had completed a local course for youth leaders. "We got a bunch of kids together and started working on rehabilitating the place," said Hasson. "All the kids in the neighborhood pitched in and before long we were able to open."

At first, Hasson, who receives a monthly salary of NIS 500, had a bit of a problem convincing local parents she was in charge. "A woman came with her child to inquire about the activities. She came in, looked at me and asked: 'Tell me, who's the adult in charge here?' When I told her I was, it took a while for her to understand, but she quickly got used to the idea," Hasson said.

Today the center is a full-fledged beehive of activity, including a planned course in jazz for young people, also Hasson's idea. There are also plans for classes for adults in the neighborhood.

Miriam Levinger sentence commuted

President Ezer Weizman has commuted the prison sentence of Miriam Levinger to community service at the recommendation of Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, the ministry spokesperson confirmed yesterday.

Levinger, the wife of Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Hebron, was due to begin serving a three-month sentence after Passover but will instead do one month of community service.

She was convicted of attacking policemen who were trying to carry out their duty, and of biting one of the policemen when they tried to arrest her during a violent demonstration in Hebron some three years ago. Subsequently, when she disturbed the court hearings, Levinger was sentenced to three months for contempt of court. *Batsheva Tsur*

Court okays destruction of bomber's home

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Kafr Tsurif home belonging to the suicide bomber who killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe 10 days ago, was expected to be destroyed late last night after the High Court of Justice rejected a petition from the terrorist's family.

On Thursday, High Court Justice Eliezer Goldberg had issued an interim injunction preventing the destruction of the house. But, at yesterday's hearing, he joined court President Aharon Barak in ruling that the home should be destroyed.

In a dissenting opinion, the third justice, Mishael Cheshin, said there should be no collective punishment and that the wife and children of the bomber would suffer. "A son should not be visited by the sins of his father," Cheshin said.

The bomber's sister, Suad el-Baradiya, told the court yesterday that the home belonged to the entire family of the bomber, Moussa Ranimat. She claimed, too, that it could not be proven for certain that Ranimat caused the bombing.

The court, however, accepted the position of OC Central Command Uzi Dayan who said that this would be only a partial destruction of the house. The part of the house belonging to the bomber's brother would be left intact, Dayan said.

At a time when there are warnings of additional suicide bombings, this could be a deterrent, Dayan added.

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Pictured above (from right to left): Mayor Poleg, Mr. N. Adler, D. Skolnick.

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in brief

Jewish businessman, aides slain in Turkey

Unknown assailants killed a Jewish businessman and three of his aides Saturday in their office in downtown Istanbul, news reports said. An employee found the bodies of Joseph Behar, 55, his driver and secretary, who had all been shot. The company's accountant, whose throat was slit, died later in the hospital, the Anatolia news agency said. The motive for the killings was not known, but police believed the assault was carried out by company debtors, the report said. The attack on Behar came as the Anti-Defamation League voiced concern over disturbing signs of antisemitic sentiment in Turkey, now governed by an Islamic-led coalition. *AP*

Firebomb thrown at Rome synagogue

A firebomb was thrown at the synagogue in central Rome late Saturday night, causing slight fire damage to one door. Police said they arrested a man who tried to flee the scene.

Police said a bottle was hurled at the building near the banks of the River Tiber. Police immediately arrested the man, believed to be Middle Eastern, and were questioning him.

The AGI news agency said the man was an Egyptian, but the police spokesman was unable to confirm it. Nobody was hurt in the attack and a small fire was swiftly extinguished by firemen.

The synagogue has been a target for attacks previously and is guarded by a permanent police presence. A two-year-old boy died and 37 were injured in a grenade and gun attack on the building by Palestinian terrorists in 1982. *Reuter*

MKs hear plight of Yemenite immigrants

Yemenite immigrants sent to live in a Rehovot absorption center are living in poverty and overcrowded conditions, the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee was told yesterday. Immigrant Shlomo Faiz described the squalid conditions at the Oshiot absorption center, saying: "We always dreamed of coming to Israel. But here we are starving, and living in terribly crowded conditions. If our situation continues to deteriorate, we'll return to Yemen." Committee chairwoman MK Naomi Blumenthal said Faiz has to support his seven children and two wives on NIS 1,900 a month, and they live in a two-room apartment. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Hochberg indicted for murders

Amiram Hochberg, 50, a Ness Ziona scientist suspected of murdering his common-law wife, Shlomit Bleichman, and her mother, Ida, was indicted in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

On May 21, 1996, Ida's body was found in her apartment after Shlomit, 49, had been reported missing from her job at the Weizmann Institute. Shlomit's body has not been found and the time of death is not known. Police said Hochberg murdered her and Shlomit and then fled the country with his and Shlomit's 12-year-old son, Itai. He was arrested in Switzerland in November and extradited a month ago. *Itim*

Hospital workers postpone strike

The union of government hospital administrative and maintenance personnel has postponed its threatened strike at least until after Pessah. After meeting with Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, the union agreed to continue negotiating with the Treasury over 1,500 job slots needed in hospitals around the country. The union has threatened unrest nearly every spring, knowing the government would be under severe pressure if institutions were not cleaned for the holiday. *Judy Siegel*

Headlights always a good idea

As of today, drivers on intercity roads no longer must keep their headlights on. Nonetheless, Ori Gershov, head of the transportation safety officers' association, recommended that all drivers keep their headlights lit at all times, regardless of what season it is. *Itim*

IMA celebrates 85th anniversary

The Israel Medical Association, which represents most of the country's physicians, marks its 85th anniversary today in a festive meeting in Tel Aviv to be attended by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza. The organization, which has 17,000 members, was founded in 1912 with 32 members and was called the "Hebrew Medical Association for Jaffa and the Jaffa District."

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar said yesterday that in the coming years, the organization will focus on ensuring a proper level of hospitalization services and improving work conditions for doctors. *Judy Siegel*

Boy stabbed in school fight

A 10th-grade boy was stabbed in the knee by another student, a ninth-grader, in a fight during recess at the Sirkin High School in Holon. The two were quarreling about the use of the soccer field. The boy was brought to Holon's Wolfson Hospital. The stabber was arrested. *Itim*

'Sleazy' Tories fear landslide

By GERRARD RAVEN

LONDON (Reuter) – Conservative members of parliament yesterday appealed to colleagues at the center of sleaze allegations to put their party's interests ahead of their own and step down as candidates in the May 1 election.

They said the party desperately needed to wrench the focus of the campaign away from stories of sexual indiscretions and financial irregularities to start clawing back the opposition Labor Party's 20 percent lead in the opinion polls.

Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, resigned Saturday over claims he had had a homosexual lover.

But Neil Hamilton, a former minister at the center of allegations that Harrods store owner Mohammed Al-Fayed paid several MPs generously to ask parliamentary questions, refused to quit as candidate for his safe northern England seat.

And Piers Merchant, whose photograph kissing a 17-year-old nightclub hostess in a park appeared in a tabloid newspaper last week, Saturday won the backing of his local party as their standard-bearer in the London commuter town of Beckenham.

"Every Conservative candidate should examine his conscience and say, 'If I stand, will that make it more likely or less likely that this election will be fought on policies and that the Conservative government will get re-elected,'" said John Townend, a member of the party's powerful 1922 Committee.

"If it's less likely, I think there comes a time when we have got to put the party and the country before our personal interests," he told BBC radio.

"This is doing us an enormous amount of damage and certainly if I were in a position where I had to put myself or the party first, I know which I would put first," said veteran legislator Sir James Spicer, who is retiring at the election.

Prime Minister John Major hinted in a letter to Hirst that he would like to see Merchant and Hamilton sacrifice themselves for the wider interests of their party.

"I fully understand your position and support the decision you have made so speedily and in such a courageous and honorable manner," he said.

But *The Sunday Mirror* said Hirst quit only after seven hours of pressure by two senior colleagues in the Scottish party who told him, incorrectly, that the newspaper had a dossier about a past indiscretion in his private life.

Major announced the election date on March 15, giving an unusually long 6 weeks' notice of polling day, which he hoped his party would use to cut into Labor's lead.

But the first two weeks of the campaign have seen a series of publicity disasters for his party, which has held power since 1979.

As well as Hirst, one Conservative Scottish MP has stepped down as a candidate amid rumors about his private life, while former minister Tim Smith, implicated in the "cash for questions" affair, was disowned by his local party.

"The Tories face not simply being buried under a tide of sleaze, but under a Labor landslide," *The Sunday Times* commented. "To have any chance of avoiding that fate, they must abort the careers of the two MPs (Hamilton and Merchant)."

Bookmakers William Hill offered odds of 11-to-one that Major would be reelected. The odds on a Labor victory rose to six-to-one on, the best they have been for Labor since 1979.

A poll in *The Mail on Sunday* newspaper gave Labor 52 percent support among women, against 30% for the Conservatives and 14% for the minority Liberal Democrats.

Labor pledges Nazi gold conference

LONDON (Reuter) – Britain's Labor Party pledged yesterday to call a conference of countries that handled Nazi gold during World War II to discuss compensation for Holocaust survivors if it comes to power.

Foreign affairs spokesman Robin Cook said gold still in the vaults of the Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve should be "put to use in some act of reparation."

Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti last month backed the idea of a conference after meeting British Labor MP Greville Janner, a vice-president of the World Jewish Congress.

Janner wants an international agreement that $68 million of gold seized by the allies at the end of the war and still held by the British and American central banks should be used to compensate Holocaust survivors and their families.

Britain's Foreign Office has been cautious about a conference, saying it is open to the idea provided the meeting has a clear purpose and is well prepared.

But Cook said in a statement: "A Labor government will show leadership by convening an international conference to put some urgency into finding a way forward."

Saudis: Extradite Dhahran suspect from Canada

RIYADH (AP) – An Interior Ministry official yesterday said the Saudi suspect held in Canada for last June's bombing that killed 19 American servicemen should be extradited to Saudi Arabia, not to the United States.

Canada arrested Hani Sayegh March 18 for possible involvement in the deadly truck bombing at Dhahran in eastern Saudi Arabia. Canadian officials claim Sayegh is a threat to Canadian security and want to deport him. US officials have said that since he entered Canada from the United States, Sayegh could be deported to American territory.

But the Saudi official, who spoke under customary conditions of anonymity, said Sayegh should be sent to Saudi Arabia since he is a Saudi and the bombing happened on Saudi territory. The official said Saudi Arabia had made a lot of progress in the investigation and needed to interrogate Sayegh to fit the pieces together. He also said the United States was not the right place to try anyone implicated in the Dhahran blast. The official said the Canadians had expressed understanding for Saudi Arabia's request.

Sayegh has requested refugee status in Canada, claiming he was persecuted in his homeland for religious reasons. He is a Shiite Muslim, while the majority of Saudis are Sunnis.

On Thursday, Canadian officials said they believe Sayegh, 28, conducted surveillance at the military housing complex in Dhahran and drove the car that signaled the go-ahead to the driver of a fuel truck packed with 2.5 tons of explosives.

Sayegh denies involvement in the bombing and says he was in Syria at the time.

A report from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, parts of which were made public Thursday, said Sayegh is a member of Saudi Hizbullah, a militant Shiite group with links to Hizbullah in Lebanon.

The Saudis reportedly have detained dozens of suspects in the Dhahran attack, including some with ties to Iran, but have not released any details of the inquiry. US officials have been frustrated by lack of access to suspects.

Yemen gunman slays 8

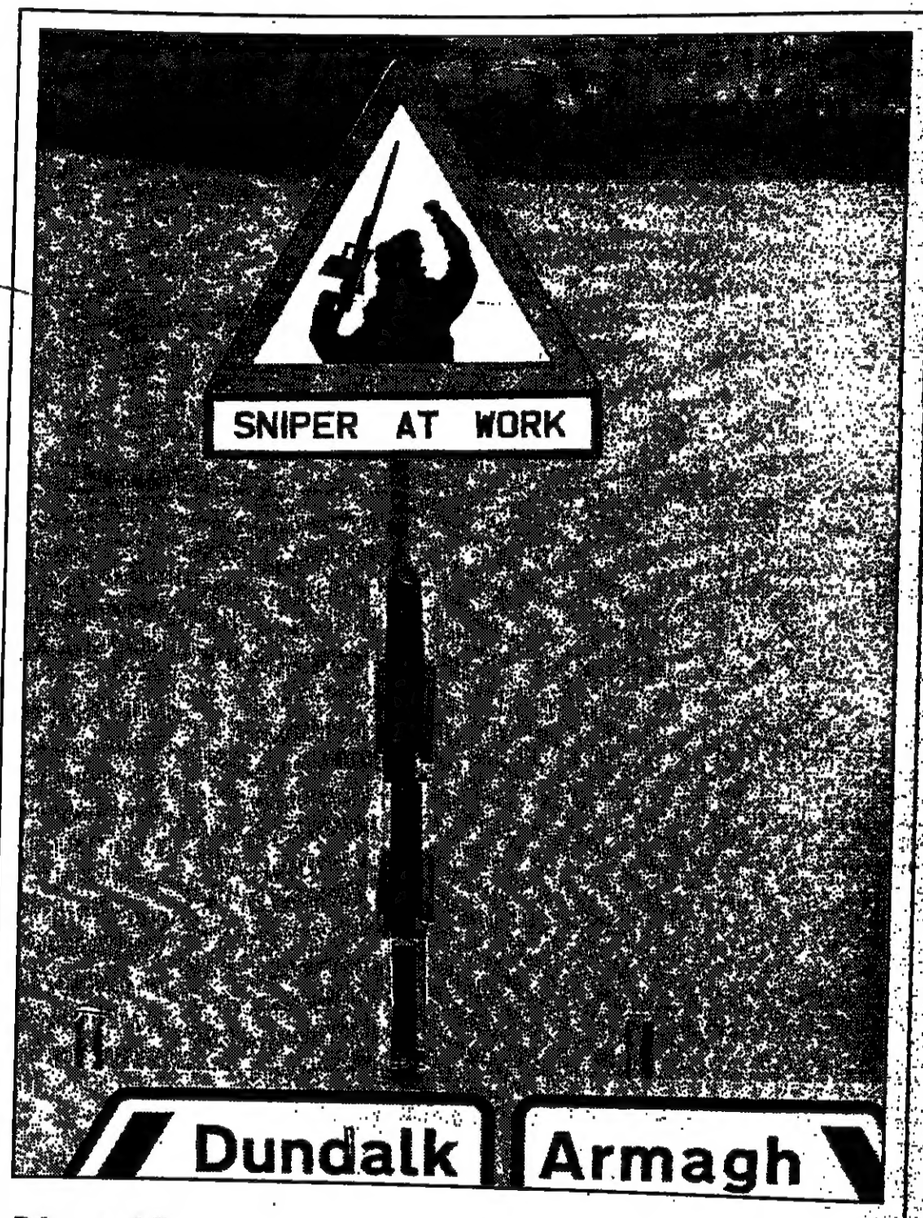
SANA'A (Reuter) – A school headmistress, a teacher and six children died yesterday when a man fired a machinegun at hundreds of pupils at two schools in the Yemeni capital, a security official said.

An Interior Ministry statement said a total of 11 pupils from the two neighboring schools and three other people were wounded. The security official named the headmistress as Asma Noman, an Egyptian woman in her forties.

Police arrested the gunman. Witnesses said he was a disgruntled former bus driver at the Tala'eh school who had been fired by the headmistress. The security official said the assailant was insane.

The attacks spread panic among the 1,000 students in the schools in the middle class suburb of Asbahi.

Some of the panic-stricken children dived for cover while others ran away. The schools were closed after the shootings, which witnesses said were the first such incident in the capital of the impoverished state.



Drive carefully

An Irish Republican Army sniper warning stands on the Armagh to Dundalk road in Northern Ireland yesterday, near where an IRA gunman shot and injured a Royal Ulster Constabulary policeman late Saturday night. (AP)

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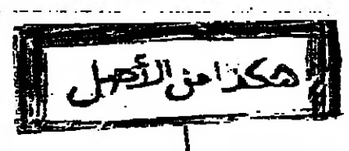

Czechs hail 'Kolya'

Praguers gave a typically Czech homecoming welcome on Friday to Zdenek and Jan Sverak, whose film *Kolya* last week won the Oscar for best foreign-language film.

Scores of fans and journalists greeted the father-and-son team as they arrived back at Prague airport, toasting them with traditional Czech Pilsner beer.

"This is a national celebration," yelled the father, Zdenek, a veteran Czech stage and screen actor who wrote the politically charged script and played the main role as a soured former symphony cellist under communism.

With the crowd chanting "Show it to us," his 31-year-old son, Jan, who won with his second Oscar-nominated film, whipped out the coveted gold statue to whoops and cheers.

The story of an aging bachelor's reawakening when he takes an abandoned Russian boy, Kolya, under his wing on the eve of Prague's bloodless 1989 Velvet Revolution touched a chord with nostalgic Czechs.

The Sverak team made their first international splash in 1992, when the postwar drama-comedy *Elementary School* earned an Oscar nomination. Zdenek is currently working on the team's first original English-language script.

President Vaclav Havel, a former dissident playwright under communism who acted in films himself, sent a victory telegram to the Sveraks after the win, saying "I am happy that after ... years a C...

Israel's 'Queen of the Night'

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The hall was packed with enthusiastic youngsters, most of whom were getting their first taste of opera. Suddenly, the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem darkened and an entrancing voice emerged from another part of the hall, as if descending from the sky. It was the soprano Shira Green, singing the Queen of the Night's first aria in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

Green, 25, was born and raised in a small moshav, Mishmar Ayalon, between Jerusalem and Rehovot. Now, she is studying voice in Berlin.

Green began her musical studies when she was in second grade. "My father was playing the clarinet at home and I envied him," she reminisces. At 16, she was about to audition for a summer music camp. "I came with my clarinet but I entered the wrong room by mistake. They asked me to sing something. I wanted to get out but was persuaded to stay and try. I did not know anything classical so I sang the kid's tune "Hayalda Hachi Yafa Bagan" ("The prettiest girl in kindergarten"), and I was immediately accepted."

After her army service, which included an armored-vehicle course and working on the bridges along the Jordan River, she took a few voice lessons and suddenly a new career emerged.

This year she was supposed to complete her master's degree at the Jerusalem Rubin ...

"I do a lot more than music there. I study painting and sculpting which I have always done, but not professionally. I also studied fencing and African dancing. And believe me, it all helps me sing."

In the last few weeks, while here during a semester break from Berlin, she participated in a series of school concerts in which she and baritone Dan Ettinger presented *The Magic Flute* in Hebrew. Green sang all three female roles in the opera, the princess Pamina, her evil mother the Queen of the Night, and the charming Papagena. In the past few days she participated in a children's production of the same opera, this time in Haifa, in which she sang the Queen of the Night – a demanding part she knows she will be singing for many years to come.

Shira Green sings the Queen of the Night with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra today (5) at the Haifa Auditorium.

NEWS
of the muse

'Tropical' storm in Miami

A Cuban American civil-rights group last week criticized anti-Castro exiles who forced a Miami radio station to stop playing music from Cuba, calling them an intolerant minority who acted "like the Spanish Inquisition." The Cuban American Defense League said the action was "another glaring example of intolerance and censorship in our community."

Tropical 98.3 radio station's broadcast of songs by Cuban pop stars such as Los Van Van and Manolin, "the Doctor of Salsa," broke a taboo by Miami's Spanish-language radio stations on music from the communist-ruled island. Right-wing stations immediately attacked Tropical and it stopped the music after receiving a bomb threat, and several advertisers canceled spots. *Reuter*

Rostropovich honored by Yeltsin

Mstislav Rostropovich (Erwin Schenkelbach)

Conductor Mstislav Rostropovich was honored by Russian President Boris Yeltsin last week for "Service to the Fatherland." Rostropovich received the award on the eve of his 70th birthday "for service to the state and a major contribution to the international development of music," according to Yeltsin's decree as quoted by the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Rostropovich's support for Soviet dissidents, including author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, earned him the wrath of the Kremlin in the early 1970s. He received permission to leave the Soviet Union for two years in 1974, then refused to return and was stripped of his citizenship in 1978.

He was music director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington until retiring in 1994 and now spends much of his time in Russia. *AP*

New TV channel launched in UK

Britain's new Channel 5 station went on air last night. It is the first commercial terrestrial channel to be launched in Britain since Channel 4 in 1982. Whereas C4 has a remit to cater for minority tastes, Channel 5 will go head-to-head against the powerful ITV commercial network. Britons spend an average of almost four hours in front of the set every day. *Reuter*

Pirouettes and plaudits

The Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance is hosting a week of International Music and Dance through April 3 as the inaugural event of its 50th anniversary with the participation of 12 academies from abroad. The event started on Saturday.

The academy is also giving a Salute to Israeli Creativity, with a dance performance and debate at the Wise Auditorium on the Givat Ram Campus today. Panelists include composers Zvi Avni, Mark Kopytman and choreographers Nina Timofeyevna and Moshe Kedem. *Helen Kaye*

Art and nature are one

Ahinoam Nini (Ronen Ackerman)

The Days of Music and Nature Festival will involve 25 stages tucked among the beautiful countryside of Western Galilee in and around Misgav where 30 arts events will happen during Hol Hamoed Pessah, April 24 to 26. This festival combines hikes (mornings) and concerts (afternoons). Performers include the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the Young Philharmonic, Ahinoam Nini and Ehud Banai, David Deor and actor Moshe Beker.

There'll be jazz, classical, ethnic and pop music, not to mention a most unusual summit meeting between Johann Sebastian Bach and versions of the old Leipziger's music in jazz by Peter Wertheimer together with songs from Egyptian composer Abdul el-Wahab. The budget is NIS 750,000, down 20 percent from last year. Tickets are already on sale at all agencies and prices range from NIS 20 to 80, depending on the activities you choose. *Helen Kaye*

Laurels for Camerata

The Israel Camerata Jerusalem recently returned from highly successful tours of North America and Germany. Critics competed with each other on crowning the orchestra with unprecedented laurels. "The orchestral blend achieved by the ensemble was nothing short of breathtaking," said the *Calgary Herald* critic, while the *Los Angeles Times* commented on "effortless virtuosity, tight instrumental balances and a broad dynamic palette that the group uses tastefully."

The Boston Herald said it best: "The Israel Camerata is a crackerjack chamber orchestra that plays everything with enormous polish and virtuosity." *Michael Ajzenstadt*

...chnya

against the same backdrop Tolstoy described some 150 years ago: war-torn Chechnya. While director Sergei Bidrov sticks quite closely to the outline of the novella, his movie leaves us, almost inevitably, with a darker feeling.

is not rea... romantic sketch, which tends to skimp on psychological explanations and refrains completely from delivering the unequivocal anti-war message that Bidrov's picture offers up. The filmmaker also fleshes out the skeletal plot with lots of buddy-movie-styled banter (according to this familiar formula, a mismatched pair are thrown together by circumstance and, thanks to their shared shackles and hard luck, move from mutual irritation to being ... of friends). More unusu... also charts the soldiers' increasingly warm interactions with their captors.

Abdul-Murat's serious-eyed adolescent daughter (the lovely ...sanna Mekhralieva), in particu..., looks on a bit wistfully as she ...ings food to the prisoners. At ...e 13, she's mistress of her ...her's house and seems drawn to ...e captives, as they are to her, out ... a blend of loneliness and ...riosity: she appears to be half in ...ve with fair-skinned, dopey-...nned Vanya, and much of the ...n's poignancy derives from the ...t that a happy ending to her ...enage crush is clearly out of the ...estion.

Bidrov's movie succeeds through its small scale and the plackly comic sympathy he extends to all his characters, with the possible exception of one really vulgar, caviar-gulping Russian police chief. And aside from being a strong political statement, *Prisoner* offers an anthropologically fascinating glimpse at Caucasian tribal life (the movie was shot in a primeval-looking village in Dagestan, about 300 kilometers from the Chechen war-zone). The sharply pitched mountains themselves are so striking and fierce, they almost serve as supporting characters in the film.

Bratislava comes to Jerusalem

A generous dollop of Bratislava's performing and plastic arts is coming to our capital from Slovakia's capital as part of a cultural exchange agreement between the two countries. Between April 6 and 10 there'll be music, theater, puppet theater, dance, movies and art with some 155 participants. Highlights include a gala concert performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* by the Capella Istropolitana Chamber Orchestra, another Mozart opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, performed by the Arena puppet theater of mime artist Milan Sladek (seen above in *Apocalypse*), *Dyp Inaf* by the avant-garde Stoka Theater and jazz from the Slovak Jazz Quartet. This visit is in response to one by 80 Israeli artists in 1995, and Bratislava mayor Peter Kresanek is coming along. *Helen Kaye*

It always rains in September

By HELEN KAYE

"A play written by an Englishman about a Yorkshire couple performed by Scots in Israel is an intriguing possibility," smiled director Bill Graham.

Well, it's happened. Graham's multi-award winning production of *September in the Rain* by John Godber performed by the Tryst Theater of Larbert opens at Gerard Behar in Jerusalem on Thursday with two performances at Tel Aviv's Yad Lebanim and another in Ra'anana.

September in the Rain is about Liz (Carol Clark) and Jack (Jim Allen) who always go to Blackpool for their annual September vacation – and it's always raining. The two-character comedy tracks the couple through the 40 years of their marriage from the 1950s to the 1990s.

Graham observes that "a major attraction of the play for me is the audiences' recognition of the changing moods in this story of a marriage, and of similar experiences in their own lives."

A shortened version won Scotland's One-Act Play Festival in 1995. The complete play won Best Production, Best Director and the Adjudicator's Award at the Dundalk International Drama Festival last May, and reached the finals of the British Amateur Drama Festival in June.

Liz (Carol Clark) and Jack (Jim Allen) go to Blackpool for their vacation every year.

The 10-member Tryst, based in the small town (30,000) of Larbert near Falkirk in Scotland, is an energetic amateur theater group which Graham, who still teaches drama at Larbert High School, founded with graduates from his drama class in the early 1960s.

Some of the original members are still with Tryst, and "the unique thing about the club is its versatility," he continues. The actors are all equally competent offstage, "so that there is a great synergy that underpins our performances."

As amateurs, they all have daytime jobs. Clark and Allen are both teachers.

Other professions include a psychiatric nurse, a public-relations consultant, a silver reclaimer and employees of Scotland's petrochemical industry.

A folk and rock concert, donations from some 100 local businesses and a well-attended production of *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4* helped raise the nearly £5,000 the group needed to make the trip which is sponsored by EADI, or English Amateur Drama in Israel.

"We saw them at Dundalk and were totally blown away, and that was before we knew they'd won," says EADI head Yanky Fachler, who added to Tryst's coffers by getting funds "from an enthusiastic bunch of Scottish Jews who were turned on by the idea of this first-ever visit by a Scottish drama group to Israel."

SEE IT IN HEBREW-
HEAR IT IN ENGLISH!

TWELFTH NIGHT
April 8 at 8:30 p.m.
A modern-day version of Shakespeare's classic
Directed by Michael Gurevitz

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
April 15 at 8:30 p.m.
Gogol's famous satire transported to a small southern Israeli town, where identities are mistaken and corrupt officials run rampant.

TAKING SIDES
Special performance
Thursday, April 17, 1997 at 8:30 p.m.
ZOA House (1 Daniel Frisch Street - corner of Ibn Gvirol)
Ronald Harwood's smash hit (London and New York) about one of the most outstanding conductors of his generation, Wilhelm Furtwangler, who was brought before the American Tribunal in Berlin in 1946 accused of Nazi sympathizing during WWII.

PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a simultaneous English translation on April 1, 1997. However, on this date, Comedy of Errors will be accompanied by a simultaneous translation into GERMAN. Additionally, there will a simultaneous translation into HUNGARIAN, on April 2 and 3, 1997, at 8:30 p.m.

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Egypt's antisemitic press

Today the Anti-Defamation League will present the Knesset with a just-released report documenting virulent antisemitism in the Egyptian press. When asked about this distressing phenomenon, President Hosni Mubarak is fond of (a) comparing press freedom in Egypt to that of the United States and (b) attacking this newspaper for what he perceives is an anti-Egyptian bias.

"Don't ask me to control the press here – I simply can't. Our media follows the example of the American media," Mubarak told the *Jerusalem Report*, adding that, "*The Jerusalem Post* frequently offends me with its awful and terrible cartoons and its most [im]polite articles." Not so fast, President Mubarak. We hate to be impolite, but as far as we know, the US government does not own stock in the major newspapers, and appoint their editors and the chairmen of their boards. Nor does the US government enjoy a monopoly on the printing and distribution of newspapers, or use that monopoly (according to the US State Department) "to limit output of opposition publications."

The prestigious international writers' association PEN reports that, "Although Egypt's press is one of the least restricted in the Arab world, serious problems exist, and they are worsening in the face of civil conflict." According to PEN, "In 1995, already restrictive press laws were amended to include what has been called the 'press assassination law,' supposedly enacted to help combat terrorism, but which in fact narrows the scope for freedom of expression."

This included a provision for "precautionary detentions" of journalists, in other words, detention of journalists without any charges. In any case, even if the press were as free as a bird, as Mubarak would have us believe, that would not absolve the Egyptian society as a whole from addressing the hatred that is being fomented on an almost daily basis against Jews, Judaism, and Israel.

Jews, according to the ADL study, are consistently portrayed as a "satanic force trying to undermine Islam," as "seeking domination of the Middle East and the world," and as equivalent to Nazis. The report continues, "The most common depiction [of Jews] is the stooped, bearded man wearing a black robe with a long, crooked nose – the same distorted stereotype of a European Jew used by the Nazis and later found in Communist Russia."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, like other Israeli leaders before him, is routinely depicted as a Nazi, complete with swastikas on his uniform. Last October, Mustafa Amin wrote in *Al-Akbar*, "If he continues Hitler's policies, he will end like Hitler." As if this were not enough, Jews are seen as "the origin of evil and corruption, spreading AIDS, prostitution, and the insidious destruction of Egyptian society," the ADL reports. Blood libels from the Middle Ages are alive and well in Egypt, where *Al-Ahram* published an article claiming that Jews sacrifice Christian and Moslem children.

Though the vitriol has been stepped up a notch since Netanyahu's election, the pattern is consistent, according to the ADL, since Israel's founding in 1948, through the peace with Egypt in 1979, and after the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993.

To this, Mubarak says, "Don't ask us to 'educate' our people for peace with Israel – they'll tell me to go to hell." Is this what Mubarak really wants us to believe? That Egyptians are more anti-Israel than Jordanians, whose king is fervently calling for peace between "all of the children of Abraham?" Mubarak is saying, in effect, do not ask me to lead my people – they do not want peace with Israel and I understand them.

Egypt wants and expects to be treated as the leader of the Arab world, particularly with respect to the peace process. Yet it is impossible for Egypt to lead the Arab world toward a real, lasting peace with Israel if it does not also lead on the front of cultural acceptance and normalization.

The sad part about Egypt's backward form of leadership is that it permeates and suffocates the culture as a whole. Restrictions on press freedom, the epidemic of press antisemitism, and the spoiler role in the peace process are all symptoms of a larger, even more troubling phenomenon: the shift in Egyptian culture toward extremism.

As Egyptian author Karim Alrawi wrote in *Index on Censorship* in May 1994, "It is hard to describe what it is like to be living in a society whose culture is dying. It is not just a question of the persecution of writers and academics, nor of the tightening of restrictions on publications and the increased censorship of theaters and films... It is a little like watching a large and lumbering animal slowly being sucked into the mire; it is the knowledge that what was won by past generations so painstakingly is being lost, possibly forever."

Ultimately, it is Egypt that is the victim of its descent into a Nasserist pan-Arabism which thumbs its nose at modernity and modernity's representative in the Middle East, Israel. Antisemitism is an example of such backwardness in its raw form; it will take real leadership to begin the hard task of uprooting it.

Middle way

ALEX LUBOTZKY

Mention the conversion issue in any Jewish forum, here or abroad, and tempers will rise. Mention it in a gathering that includes Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform, and you will find yourself in a veritable battlefield, with wounded (sensibilities) strewn all over the place.

What seems most useful, therefore, is to find something on which we can all agree.

Judaism should be associated with clear, honest practice, and not with evasion or double-dealing. Since everyone must surely subscribe to that, what about the ridiculous distinction whereby non-Orthodox conversions have traditionally been recognized in Israel if they were carried out abroad, but not if they were done here?

Give peace (among Jews) a chance!

This is all the more bizarre given the widely accepted fact that such conversions are actually far more stringently supervised here than anywhere else.

The current loophole which allows someone who has been turned away by the Israeli rabbinate to take a trip abroad and return "Jewish" for all intents and purposes demeans all conversion procedures, Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

The proposal I am advocating is simple, clear, and honest: that there be no differentiation between non-Orthodox conversions, wherever they may have been carried out. All should be recognized for civil purposes, but not for religious ones.

Thus any convert would be classified as Jewish in his ID; but the Population Registry would specify the exact nature of conversion he or she underwent.

The fear of being called discriminatory should not deter one from calling a spade a spade.

From the civil point of view, every conversion is equal; halachically speaking, it isn't. If a son comes to his Orthodox father and says he wants to marry a convert, that father is fully justified in wanting to know who converted her.

THE conversion law, anchoring in legislation the current status quo whereby conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis done in Israel are not recognized, is scheduled to come before the Knesset today for a first reading. Should it pass, American Jewry, with its overwhelming proportion of non-Orthodox Jews, will feel humiliated, and their Judaism delegitimized.

The Knesset's religious factions would, of course, dearly like to see all conversion solely in the hands of the Orthodox rabbinate. However, in their heart of hearts, they know this aspiration isn't realistic.

The proposal described solves the halachic problem: and in granting all non-Orthodox converts at least a symbolic recognition of their conversion, addresses too the legitimate needs of the Conservative and Reform.

The big news is that this is the first time any objective proposal on this sensitive topic has garnered support from both sides.

Yesterday, Meir Porush of United Torah Judaism told me: "This is a serious proposal that warrants serious consideration." Porush added that he wanted to put it before the Council of Torah Sages.

Those bodies who have petitioned the High Court against the conversion law have agreed to postpone their petition only if today's first reading of the law is also postponed.

My fervent hope is that matters will not be brought to a head today, so that all sides can gain more time to reach a genuine settlement.

A compromise proposal like the above could end, once and for all, the perennial debate over "Who's a Jew."

That being the case, all I am saying is: Give peace (among the Jews) a chance!

The writer, a Third Way MK, is a mathematics professor and Orthodox resident of Efrat.

Dry Bones

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ICE SKATING

Sir, – Your sub-editor did Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovsky a great injustice with the headline, "Ice skaters disappoint in Lausanne" (March 23). We watched them live on Eurosport, and they gave a brilliant, flawless and dramatic program, drawing very high praise from the British commentators. Despite their bias in favor of the British couple just above them in the ranking, the commentators agreed the Israelis had performed better and deserved to overtake them. They then expressed shock and displeasure at the marks they received from the judges.

Chait and Sakhnovsky did us proud and made a marvelous impression in a competition of the highest standard.

AMIEL SCHOTZ
Beersheba.

LACK OF CREDIBILITY

Sir, – The most important ingredient in any relationship, whether between individuals or nations, is trust. Without it, there can be little hope of any lasting accommodation. Perhaps the single greatest problem facing Binyamin Netanyahu is that no one – neither the Americans, the Jordanians, the Egyptians, nor even members of his own cabinet and party – believes or trusts him. And given his record of broken promises since he became prime minister, can anyone blame them?

If Netanyahu occupied a lower political position, his behavioral and attitudinal problems might be overlooked. But as leader of the nation, he represents us. What he says and does determines our fate. I wonder if he truly understands the terrible damage that his lack of credibility is causing the nation. Is he is unable or unwilling to understand this? I shudder to think of what lies ahead for us with him at our helm.

DR. ROBERT ROCKAWAY
Tel Aviv.

BLIND EYE

Sir, – The fact that the US does not wish to condemn or even to see the violations of the Oslo Agreement by Arafat reminds me of a similar American blindness in 1970. At that time, there was an agreement between Israel and Egypt for a cease-fire to end the War of Attrition according to which Egypt agreed to remove its missiles from the Suez Canal Zone.

Several weeks later, the Americans were shown Israeli photographs of Egyptian missiles which had returned to the zone in violation of the agreement. American reaction to those photos was that they were not missiles, but perhaps chimneys of some new factories Egyptians were building in the area. Unfortunately for Israel, during the Yom Kippur War, these "chimneys" shot down dozens of Israeli planes which were defending the country from the Egyptian invaders.

When will the Americans ever learn? Or don't they really care what happens to us?

JOSHUA J. ADLER
Jerusalem.

SECULAR JEWS

Sir, – Further to Dr. Jacob Rosin's letter of March 14 "Secular majority," I am in agreement with his "logic" as far as he went, but would like to take it on from there.

If a gentile wants to become a secular Jew, why does he need to become a "Jew"? What has he gained? A secular Jew lives like a gentile, his children or grandchildren marry gentiles, and he is right back where he came from. So why bother?

If it is because he wants to die a Jew, he would be better off dying a righteous gentile than a Jew who doesn't keep the Torah.

Orthodox Jews are just Jews who try to live by the God-given Torah we received at Mt. Sinai from the creator of the universe, through Moses.

MRS. CHAYA ROCHEL SCHWARTZ
Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM'S TAXI DRIVERS

Sir, – I have just returned from two weeks in Jerusalem.

I had heard many things about Jerusalem's taxi drivers, all of them bad. The reality was worse. Adjectives such as dishonest, unhelpful, rude, negative, all spring to mind, as well as a number of unprintable ones.

I heard people bemoaning the lack of tourists in Jerusalem. Personally, I do not think it is the terrorist threats; it is your taxi drivers that make tourists swear never to return.

On the bright side, in two days in Tel Aviv, I encountered only courteous, friendly and helpful taxi drivers. Perhaps Jerusalem should import a few of them?

H.A. SHERMAN
Calgary, Canada.

STONE-THROWING

Sir, – A fundamental problem in the "peace process" is that the Palestinian Authority changes the meaning of words. An example is Palestinian spokesman Nabil Shaath's declaration: "We are using peaceful protest. The Israeli army shoots at peaceful demonstrators" (March 21). By saying "we," Shaath identifies with the previous day's stoning of Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem.

The Netanyahu government should reject the Palestinian concepts that hurling stones is a "peaceful demonstration" and that the Palestinian Police obligations are met by hovering about behind stone-throwers.

SUE GOLDEN LERNER
Jerusalem.

UNNECESSARY

Sir, – Do we really need another confrontation with the Palestinians? Is it really worth any more deaths, injuries or hospital visits for the Israelis or Arabs?

Prime Minister Netanyahu can choose the path toward peace or the path toward war, but he cannot take them both at the same time. Any further bloodshed rests upon him.

MICHAEL A. GLUECK, M.D.
Newport Beach, California.

It isn't the system that's at fault

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Against a background of dissatisfaction among both coalition and opposition MKs with the new system of direct election, the Association for Parliamentarianism is to hold a symposium on Tuesday at the Knesset on the way the new system has been working.

What are the main causes of dissatisfaction? There is a feeling that the new system has eroded the power of the Knesset; that it has greatly weakened the two major parties while strengthening the medium-sized ones, to the detriment of the country's political life; and that it was responsible for bringing Binyamin Netanyahu to power.

Has the new system really weakened the Knesset? Not really. It is still that body which must pass all bills into law; and no government can survive if a majority in the Knesset rejects its policy.

The only real difference is that in the past, an ordinary majority (a majority of MKs participating in a vote) could bring down the government without new elections needing to be held, whereas today it takes a special majority of 61 MKs to bring down the prime minister – resulting in new elections for both prime minister and Knesset.

Clearly, those who would like to topple Netanyahu without this meaning new elections would prefer a return to the old system.

It should, however, be remembered that only one Israeli government has ever been brought down by a vote on a no-confidence motion, and that was the national unity government on March 15, 1990; even though the country has had numerous governments enjoying very scant Knesset majorities, and was governed by a minority government from August 1993 to June 1996.

What about the argument that the new system strengthened the smaller parties vis-a-vis the two large ones? Though the split voting (for the prime minister and for the Knesset) certainly aided this phenomenon, it cannot be held solely responsible for it.

Has direct election of the premier really weakened the Knesset?

One should not forget the periods under the old system when some of the smaller parties, like the National Religious Party and Mapam, held 10 or more Knesset seats.

The main reason for the current weakness of the two major parties has less to do with the system than with the fact that they simply do not represent large sections of the population, such as the traditional Sephardim, the Russian new immigrants, or Israeli Arabs.

If the two large parties want to win back votes, they will just have to try harder.

THE weakest argument against the system of direct election is that it enabled Netanyahu to come to power. Even if the last elections had been held under the old system and Labor had received more seats than the Likud, the president would, in all likelihood, have called upon Netanyahu to form the new government.

One cannot ignore two facts. The first is that whereas the balance of seats in the 13th Knesset between the left-wing and Arab parties versus the right-wing and religious parties was 61 to 59, in the 14th Knesset it is 52 to 68.

The second is that, unlike Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres had never won an election, and his refusal to declare Ehud Barak as his candidate for defense minister didn't exactly increase his chances in May 1996.

So it isn't the system that brought Netanyahu to power, but the fact that he is a shrewd politician, and that Labor once again found itself led by a non-winner.

Which means that changing the system isn't going to bring Netanyahu down. His opponents in the Right can do that by choosing an alternative leader, while Labor can help by choosing as their leader someone who can elicit broad popular support.

None of which goes to say that the new system is a good one, or even that it is better than the old one.

It certainly didn't do away with the horsetrading that has traditionally accompanied the formation and preserving of our governments, since the prime minister still needs Knesset approval for his government, and can still be threatened with a no-confidence motion.

The problem lies not in the system, but in faulty norms.

This means that the result of the police investigation into the appointment of the attorney-general is likely to be far more significant for the future of our political system than any attempt to change that system.

The writer is a political scientist.

POSTSCRIPT

LENDING TRUTH to the adage that there's no such thing as bad publicity, the Bruno Magli company says sales soared after its designer shoes were first mentioned in the O.J. Simpson murder case.

The Italian shoemaker has received the kind of public exposure money can't buy. For 1995-96, Bruno Magli's sales increased nearly 30 percent worldwide.

Simpson said in a pre-trial deposition for his civil trial that he never owned such "ugly-ass" shoes.

هكذا من الأصل

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Image Problem

Old View of Internet: Nerds. New View: Nuts.

By GEORGE JOHNSON

FOR the techno-libertarians intent on keeping the abstract duchy called cyberspace the freest of all lands, the last few months have been a nightmare of bad vibrations rippling through what the electronic elite derisively calls the "old media."

Every few days, it seems, television newscasts and newspapers carry reports of unspeakable acts conducted over the Internet. Pedophiles and maybe even prisoners trade pornography and tips on kidnapping, while trying to seduce children in electronic chatrooms. Right-wing lunatics post recipes for explosives and rouse their members with paranoid visions of immense conspiracies that only they can overthrow.

Earlier this year, the United States Parole Commission, alarmed at the flotsam sifted from the data gurgling through the fiber optical pipes, added a new item to the list of things Federal parolees can be kept from doing: owning firearms, drinking to excess, consorting with criminals, and now, using a computer to access the Internet.

Come visit my web site, kiddies, and I'll give you some candy.

The horror stories about the crimes made possible by this powerfully anarchic technology pale against the news last week that a cult of Southern California computer enthusiasts, who supported themselves making Web pages for businesses, committed mass suicide in preparation for a science-fiction version of the Rapture, in which they would be beamed aboard a U.F.O. hiding behind the Hale-Bopp comet. Taking phenobarbital like Communion wafers, and following the drug with vodka chasers, they rested, shrouded in purple, and quietly awaited the ultimate trip.

Anyone who spends much time randomly wandering the Web may have found their delusion eerily familiar. For months rumors about the U.F.O. and the comet have festered in discussion groups and on Web pages all over the Net, sharing space with speculation about military plots to blow up T.W.A. Flight 800 and the Federal building in Oklahoma City, or to destroy Zairians with Ebola virus engineered in government labs.

The computer cult, with the sappy name Heaven's Gate, added to the group hallucination, using its own Web site to spread an ideology that combined Christianity and gnosticism with scenarios that could have come from watching too many X-Files reruns while reading the Weekly World News. But the weirdest thing about their cut-and-paste religion was that it wasn't really so weird at all — at least not on the Internet, where one can leaf through digitally "enhanced" photos showing pyramids on Mars and a second Sphinx — linked, through some ethereal connection probably involving resonating crystals, with the monuments of Egypt (which may have been built with the help of enlightened extraterrestrials).

Never mind that most of the Internet's

Continued on page 4

These images from World Wide Web sites, ranging from the merely strange to the truly sinister, may explain why so many people now see the Internet as a menace, a labyrinth hiding the obsessions of perverts and cult leaders trying to snare impressionable minds and bodies.

Life Imitates Art
The latest trends in bank robbery.
By David Johnston **2**

Mexican Standoff
In the drug war, success hurts.
By Clifford Krauss **3**

Selling Taboos
Incest loses its power to shock.
By Karen De Witt **4**

The Really Silent Majority

What's on Russia's Mind?

By ALESSANDRA STANLEY

MOSCOW

IT is perhaps a measure of the distance between ordinary people and the ruling elite in Russia that when a professional pollster is asked how Russians feel about NATO expansion, the pollster gives his own views first.

"There was a rare display of unity against NATO between the Government and its opposition, which to my mind was quite dangerous," said Yuri A. Levada, director of Vtsiom, one of Russia's oldest and most respected public opinion survey companies. "Yeltsin correctly broke away from this in Helsinki, but he will undoubtedly be blamed for it." Asked, again, what voters think, he replied: "Oh, NATO is of absolutely no importance to ordinary Russians. They have other, more pressing issues on their minds."

There is, in fact, a yawning gap between the Kremlin's preoccupations and those of ordinary citizens, and it was on vivid display last week. On Wednesday, President Boris N. Yeltsin devoted his weekly radio address to defending his performance at the Helsinki summit. The next day, millions of Russian workers and pensioners marched and held rallies all over Russia to protest nonpayment of salaries, a debt worth $8 billion.

Demonstrators were passionate and angry, but as a whole, the day of protest was milder than some had expected. The Kremlin was relieved and seemingly comforted by the low turnout. In Russia's peculiar form of democracy, officials measure public opinion largely by what citizens do *not* do or say.

A civil society requires, if not civility, at least some kind of conversation between voters and their representatives. The rule of fear and silence that kept Czarist and then Soviet Governments in power has been toppled, and Russians can vote against candidates who disappoint them. But in between elections, trust — the feeling that the Government is listening and is accountable to the

Continued on page 3

Reuters

Russians, including this Communist supporter with accordion, staged protests to demand payment of wages.

The Nation

The Mystery of the Violent Bank Jobs

Associated Press

In Philadelphia in January, officials aired a video of a suspect in a bank-robbing gang.

Reuters

A slain bank robbery suspect in North Hollywood: Highway-laced California has nearly half the nation's bank robberies.

By DAVID JOHNSTON

IN the 1996 movie "Heat," starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro, a commando-style gang of heavily armed thugs dressed in full body armor storms a bank in California, terrorizing customers before fleeing in a wild gun battle with the police. In recent weeks, a rash of extremely violent bank robberies has left the authorities wondering whether a new era of bank robbers may be drawing inspiration from Hollywood's blood-soaked scripts.

The evidence is provocative. In Los Angeles three weeks ago, a group of bandits clad in black assault gear and carrying AK-47 assault rifles held up a Bank of America branch in North Hollywood. They splashed bullets into walls and ceilings and locked terrified customers and employees in a vault. After a 20-minute standoff with the police, the gang bolted for freedom, opening fire with a small arsenal of weapons at the authorities, bystanders and television news helicopters whirring overhead. The toll: two robbers dead, three bystanders and six police officers wounded.

Two weeks later in Detroit, a man wearing full camouflage and singing the Lord's Prayer entered a branch of the Comerica bank armed with a shotgun. The robber opened fire, killing two bank employees and a hostage before scores of police officers gunned him down in a spray of bullets.

Copycats

A week after that in St. Louis, two men armed with M-16 rifles held up the Lindell Bank and Trust. The pair, clad in body armor, killed a bank guard and then fled, leading the police on a careening two-mile chase that ended when the pair crashed their van in a fiery wreck in a city park.

The spate of violent robberies has Federal law enforcement officials worrying about the possibility of copycats at a time when bank robberies are sharply on the rise again after a five-year decline from a peak in 1992. Last year there were 7,562 bank jobs, nearly 10 percent more than in 1995. The total still falls below the record year of 1992, when there were 9,622 bank robberies.

> Officials hoped bank robberies would fade as electronic banking spread. That was California dreaming.

Top officials at the Federal Bureau of Investigation said that despite the recent spurt of violent bank robberies, they have little overall evidence that takeover robberies, in which organized gangs take hostages with high-powered weapons, are anything but a frighteningly rare phenomenon — even though the incidence of such crimes has jumped in some communities in Texas, Florida and California.

"Most bank robberies are still note jobs," said William J. Esposito, the F.B.I.'s deputy director, referring to the typical bank-robbing method, in which a robber steps up to a counter and passes a note to a teller demanding cash. In 1995, the last year for which the F.B.I. has complete statistics, about 48 percent of all bank robbers used firearms, but incidents of actual violence occurred in only 1 in 20 robberies — a figure that has been holding steady in recent years.

Before the recent surge, Federal officials had begun to hope that bank robbery was slowing with the advent of electronic banking, which reduced opportunities for robberies, and with improved security measures like exploding dye packs, security cameras and sophisticated alarms. The F.B.I. is preparing a new computerized data file profiling each robbery, which will permit investigators to link crimes throughout the country.

Highway Robbers

Even though there is a relatively low level of violence in most bank robberies, many people are killed, hurt or traumatized and millions of dollars are lost. In 1995, thieves got away with more than $59 million in cash, securities and other valuables, of which only $9.6 million was recovered. Worse, in 1995, 67 people were taken hostage, 20 were wounded and 16 others were killed — 13 of them perpetrators themselves. Law enforcement officials said they advise bank managers to teach employees not to resist an armed robber. "The money is never worth a human life," said one official.

Nearly half the country's bank robberies take place in California, though it has only about 12 percent of the nation's population, because, Mr. Esposito said, the state has nearly unlimited branch banking and an extensive network of freeways that makes robbers believe that a getaway is possible.

"They can be 10 miles away in five minutes," he said.

Bank robbers are almost always men, and about 65 percent of the thieves are caught; more than half of those are subsequently found to be narcotics abusers. More robberies take place on Friday than any other day of the week (Monday is the second most popular day) and most bank jobs are likely to be committed between 9 A.M. and 11 A.M.

But the crime has changed since the F.B.I. made its reputation hunting down Depression-era bank robbers like Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. There are so many heists now that the bureau takes only the biggest, most violent cases, leaving the rest to local authorities to investigate. But bank robbery remains a Federal violation, which law enforcement officials say helps explain why banks remain a tempting target. They say some professional criminals figure that if they are caught it would be better to wind up in the relative safety and comfort of a Federal prison than in a state lockup.

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The World

Fighting the Drug War With Boomerangs

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

MEXICO CITY

EVER since the Nixon Administration, Washington has been pressing Mexico to crack down on its marijuana and poppy fields. The results have been mixed, and now, over the last decade or so, something more pernicious has occurred.

Policies meant to push narcotics trafficking out of the Caribbean and destroy Colombia's Medellín and Cali cartels have produced the unwelcome side effect of funnelling drugs through Mexico on their way to the rich American market.

As a result, the emerging Mexican cartels have grown richer, leaving a mounting toll of assassinations and corruption all the way from the steamy jungles of Tabasco to the ribald streets of Tijuana. "We push the drugs around," said Bruce Bagley, a professor of international relations at the University of Miami, "and new networks and new routes are established. As a result, we have overwhelmed Mexico's weak political and law enforcement institutions."

The Generals' Turn

Just in the last couple of months, the corrosive effect that drugs inevitably have on any society appears to have reached the upper echelons of the Mexican Army. Two Mexican generals have already been arrested — one of them the country's former drug czar, who had been privy to many of the most intimate details of Washington's anti-narcotics strategies.

These aren't just any high officials, either; corruption of the army is a development that threatens this country's gradual move toward democracy. As President Gonzalo Sánchez de Losada of Bolivia once put it: "When you have a corrupt chief of police, you fire him. When you have a corrupt chief of the army, he fires you."

Of course, there is no telling how strong the international cartels would be if it weren't for the efforts of United States law enforcement. Drug supplies might be even more plentiful and purer in the cities of North America, and prices even lower. Victories over traffickers in the Caribbean and Colombia have brought periodic spikes in cocaine prices in the United States over the last couple of decades that just might have persuaded some potential first-time users to buy a six-pack of beer instead.

Drugs, after all, are international commodities that follow the laws of economics. And however the sources of supply are squeezed or displaced, demand for one drug or another has been fairly steady in the United States in recent years, making supply the most important determinant of price.

Reuters

Mexican drug activity has grown as other supply points are squeezed. Mexican poppy-growing peasants during a feud with rivals.

The Mexican Government would like Washington to reverse that equation by doing something to change the continuing American taste for illegal highs.

The Clinton Administration, like its predecessors, would love to oblige but finds it difficult, to say the least. Its next effort, scheduled to be launched soon, is an aggressive media campaign to discourage teen-age drug use.

Unintended Results

In the meantime, the Mexican cartels are rapidly expanding internationally, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. They are linking up with coca growers in Bolivia and Peru and violently seizing local drug markets in Los Angeles and across the southwestern United States.

The leaders of the competing Cali cartel in Colombia have suffered billions of dollars in losses already, but there is little they can do since they have been imprisoned in Colombia over the last two years as a result of pressure from Washington.

"I have seen firsthand how so many of our programs that we hoped would help can have unintended, adverse consequences," said Mathea Falco, who was Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters in the Carter Administration.

Ms Falco recalled that American pressure on South American governments to eradicate drug plants began at the end of the Carter years, and that as that policy blossomed through the 1980's, "it alienated and intensified tensions between the Peruvian Government and the peasants, helping the Sendero Luminoso guerrilla movement grow, and that's what is happening in Colombia now."

A metaphor, which has become a cliché in narcotics-control circles, describes the problem. It's called the "balloon effect:" Squeeze a balloon in one spot and it billows out in another.

When the Nixon Administration closed down Turkey's "French Connection," heroin production spread to Burma, Pakistan and ultimately Afghanistan. When the Bush Administration urged Bolivia to eradicate coca plants on the eastern slopes of its Andean range, cultivation spread into Bolivia's Amazon Basin and into Brazil. When the Clinton Administration urged the Peruvian Air Force to intercept planes carrying raw coca to Colombia, traffickers began shipping their goods on the Amazon River and growing more coca in Colombia.

"Stop the traffickers on the ground, and they take to the air," sighed Gen. Enrique Salgado Cordero, chief of the Mexico City police. "Control the air, and they go by sea. It's a battle with no end."

Still, President Ronald Reagan had little choice but try to stem the flood of drugs that was pouring into Miami from the Caribbean in the early 1980's. Miami was plummeting into an abyss: its streets had become a battleground of dealers fighting for turf, its police force was corrupted by bribes, and the integrity of its banks was threatened by a deluge of laundered money.

Associated Press

Mexico's new anti-drug chief, Mariano Herran Salvatti, at a news conference.

The Reagan Administration unleashed the Coast Guard, the Navy, the Customs Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration to block the fleets of boats launched from Colombia that made their way to Miami through Jamaica, Haiti and the Bahamas. At the same time, pressure was exerted on Colombia to crack down on the Medellín cartel.

Shifting Gears

The operation was so successful that panicked Colombian drug lords first made war on their Government and then took refuge in Panama in 1984. With the help of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, they rerouted their shipments up through Central America and Mexico. Once the Medellín mafia was crushed, the Cali cartel took up the slack with the help of emerging Mexican organized crime groups.

Miami was saved, but the police forces and militaries of Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were all corrupted to varying degrees. Drug corruption led to an American invasion in Panama, and now it appears to promise years of tensions between Washington and Mexico City.

And still, for all the international turmoil, cocaine and heroin prices in the United States keep dropping, and the potency of the drugs keeps rising.

Resentment in the South Seas

Yankee, Go Home. Send Cash.

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

MAJURO, Marshall Islands

THE President is in his customary place in the hotel bar, apparently inebriated and enjoying yet another pre-dinner drink, when he is asked about the United States. He frowns.

"You know, I was arrested by the United States," the President, Imata Kabua, slurs proudly, and he starts to tell the story of how he was detained in 1982 for protesting the American military presence at a base here. His drinking buddy, a local senator who is also more than a little unsteady, is repeating over and over: "I don't like America, I don't like America."

Thus this paradox of foreign aid: There is almost no place in the world where America, as America sees it, has been so generous as the Marshall Islands, a collection of coral atolls between Japan and Hawaii. Yet the local economy remains a shambles and the United States is broadly resented. Something went badly wrong, for usually it is possible to be resented without paying $1 billion for the privilege.

An arrestingly beautiful collection of islets with a relaxed, friendly feeling and about 56,000 people, the Marshall Islands are about as American as a non-American place can be. The currency is American dollars, and although there is a local language, the newspaper is mostly published in English. The loose atmosphere is evident in the way President Kabua simply dines in the hotel with his buddies each evening, chatting with anyone who drops by. (To be sure, although Mr. Kabua was as cordial as he was tipsy, not everybody was pleased. Although the meeting had been approved ahead of time with Mr. Kabua's office and with the Foreign Minister, the Health Minister later called to threaten bodily harm and demand that any tape of the interview be destroyed.)

No Thanks

Under a treaty that is soon coming up for review, Washington gives the Marshall Islands millions in aid and even offers free access by all citizens to move to America for work or study. Yet, asked about the treaty, President Kabua scowled. "I don't like it," he said. "It shouldn't be renewed. It should be renegotiated, that's right. Renegotiated, not renewed."

From the American point of view, the treaty is enormously generous and any renewal — if it happens at all — will be on much less favorable terms. From the perspective of the Marshalls, the United States has been bullying this little country for decades, and it finally will be forced to treat the Marshalls with some respect.

Nicholas D. Kristof/The New York Times

On Ejit, an atoll in the Marshall Islands, Kelen Joash plays with his grandchildren.

The Marshalls, like two nearby island countries, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, were Japanese possessions that effectively became an American colony after World War II. They became independent in the 1980's, but their economies now depend on the current treaty with Washington, known in each case as a "compact of free association." Over the last decade or so, about $2.4 billion has been appropriated for these three countries, or a total of about $13,000 per inhabitant.

In both the Marshalls and the Federated States of Micronesia, the compact expires in 2001. The problem for the islands is that they have lost their strategic advantage. When the compacts were negotiated, Washington was afraid the Soviet Union would sign up one of the island countries as a client state, a prospect that now seems ridiculous.

"The compacts were negotiated during the cold war," Aurelia E. Brazeal, a deputy assistant secretary of state for the region, pointedly told a Congressional subcommittee in the fall.

The United States has a military base in Kwajalein, one of the Marshall Islands, that it uses to monitor space operations and missile tests. But there may be pressure to close the base, and in any case the United States can keep it until 2016 even if the compact as a whole is not renewed.

To gain a bit of leverage, the Marshall Islands is threatening to allow China to set up a naval base on its territory. "China is getting bigger and bigger in this region, and I'm sure that the United States would not like to see them here," warned Phillip Muller, the Foreign Minister. In Washington, the threat provokes less alarm than mirth.

Almost everybody, American and Marshallese, complains that the Micronesian countries have become far too dependent on American aid. Yet if the United States did not renew the compact and cut off aid, the result would be a fiscal disaster.

"We might not have a Government to run," said Alvin Jacklick, a senator. By far the largest part of Government revenue comes from American payments.

The islanders make the point that not all the money is aid. Much of it is a negotiated payment for military cooperation or for past offenses, like spraying radiation on local citizens during nuclear tests.

The broader challenge for all the Pacific island countries is to figure out how they can compete economically in the modern world. These countries have gorgeous atolls and an alluring lifestyle, but few ways to generate hard currency other than sales of postage stamps to collectors and occasional tourism.

Still, experts do point to ways that the island countries can bolster their economies. Joan M. Plaisted, the American Ambassador, noted some opportunities to develop eco-tourism, sport fishing and diving in the Marshalls. A scuba diver herself, she raves about the underwater environment.

"You're almost guaranteed to see sharks," she said enthusiastically, quickly adding: "And most of them are friendly."

Gauging the Opinions Of a Silent Majority

Continued From Page I

public — is very rare.

There are now dozens of polling firms in Russia that sample people's views on everything from tax reform to toothpaste. Advertisers use television ratings to determine what products to hawk, and where. Foreign manufacturers, who buy most of the television advertising, are deeply interested in what Russian consumers want.

Democracy, however, is still lagging behind. Russian society simply does not provide ordinary people much of a forum to articulate their views. "In my business, we can't measure public opinion; the best we can do is sample the public mood," said one well-known pollster, Nugzar Betaneli. "Newspaper readership is down, people don't watch news programs anymore, they don't have town halls." They are, he added, "totally isolated from government."

A Missed Message

So the Kremlin was free to read into Thursday's protest a message that people aren't doing so badly after all. "People who haven't been paid in four or five months, normally they should die of starvation," said Aleksei Volin, a deputy director of the Kremlin's media directorate. "If they don't, it means that they have other, hidden sources of income — trade, personal businesses. If they are not storming barricades, it means the nonpayment crisis is not as dramatic as we think."

There is some truth to the notion that many people who have not been paid for months have found hidden ways to make ends meet. But there are also other ways to interpret the lackluster day of protest.

"People saw it as the same old power struggle between the Government and the opposition," Mr. Betaneli argued. "They don't think it is about them, or will help them. But this is not good for the Government. It's a sign of demoralization and deep disillusionment with politics."

Exploring citizens' concerns — let alone heeding them — is, of course, a developing art in post-Communist Russia. In Soviet society, there was no need to measure public opinion; officially, dissent didn't exist.

In his quest to loosen the party's sclerotic grip on society, the last Soviet leader, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, ordered the first public opinion polls in 1987, to gauge how his reforms were being received. He was horrified to learn that the masses whom he had personally freed to speak up didn't always speak highly of him. He stopped asking.

During the Russian election campaign last spring, President Yeltsin's team relied heavily on focus groups to figure out ways to sell their message. The Kremlin still does its own public opinion polling — much of it consisting of surveys of the views of political elites in the provinces — and during the campaign, the Kremlin even installed a special phone number voters could call to record their thoughts and desires on an answering machine. But that was unplugged after Mr. Yeltsin was re-elected.

Particularly in politics, opinions are formed from the top down. Journalists are more or less free now to write what they want — but most prefer to write what they or their high-placed sources think, not what they have seen or reported. The polling firm Vox Populi produces a monthly list of the 150 top Russian political figures. The list is based on the opinions of two dozen columnists, sociologists and political figures.

Many Russians still have a hazy notion of what they are owed by their elected representatives. This is partly because old habits die hard. Many Russians still view their elected representative as the equivalent of the local party boss — someone to petition for help with a housing problem or work grievance, not as their voice in Moscow.

Confusion works both ways. Asked how much time staff members spend with constituents who come to the office, Tatyana G. Dubova, a local aide to Oleg Gonzharov, a member of parliament from Novosibirsk, tartly replied: "What's the point of talking? Aren't their views clear? We already know all the moods and problems of people."

The Soldiers' Mothers Committee, a grass-roots organization that was born during the Afghan war and lobbied intensely against the war in Chechnya, is one of the few public interest groups in Russia to have made a dent in the system. Through sheer will power, it has forced officials and members of parliament to pay attention.

Maneuverings

Valeria Melnikova, director of the Moscow office, said the committee had also found ways to make good use of some deputies' less exemplary connections. "They have contacts with banks and commercial enterprises," she said. "We have a kid in Krasnodarsky Krai who needs a prosthetic leg. It costs $2,800. For these kinds of people, it's nothing. We'll find the money."

But that kind of skillful maneuvering is rare. Mostly, people are baffled by a democracy they feel excluded from. A 35-year-old tram driver from Grozny named Sergei who was injured in Chechnya went to the parliament last week in the far-fetched hope of asking the Communist leader Gennadi A. Zyuganov for help finding housing. He did not get past the guards.

Asked about the relationship between voters and their representatives, he shrugged. "The relationship is very simple," he said. "They have everything. I have nothing. They drive in limousines. I walk."

Ideas & Trends

Incest as a Selling Point

By KAREN DE WITT

OEDIPUS blinded himself when he learned that he had slept with his mother. Moll Flanders, Daniel Defoe's much-wed 18th-century heroine, rejects happiness when she discovers that her third husband is her brother. The lovers of D. W. Griffith's "A Baby's Shoe" become priest and nun upon learning that they are siblings.

That was in 1910. In 1996, the reunited lovers of John Sayles's "Lone Star," after finding out that they have the same father, continue their affair.

If a dozen movies, television dramas and memoirs are any indication, incest, one of humanity's last taboos, is taboo no longer. Incest is the plat du jour in

This taboo is now openly explored in a spate of new books and movies.

the 90's marketplace, the sudden Zeitgeist zapping a jaded American audience. What's more, the new permutations make this societal crime seem almost ordinary. Gee, one almost hears someone say, doesn't every family have this skeleton in the closet?

In addition to the Sayles movie, the plots of several upcoming movies — "The House of Yes," "This World, Then the Fireworks" and "The Locusts" — turn on incest. And the buzz on "The Kiss," Kathryn Harrison's new memoir for Random House, is not about the book's overall quality but about the author's revelation that she had sex with her father, not as an unwilling child but as a woman of 20.

"Incest has such incredible currency today largely because of ambush television and mid-afternoon shame programs," said James B. Twitchell, a professor of English at the University of Florida, who wrote "Forbidden Partners: the Incest Taboo in Modern Culture" (Columbia University Press, 1987). "In a highly competitive entertainment world, this is one that will quickly grab you."

Incest as a literary theme first erupted at the beginning of the 19th century as part of romantic interest in intense relationships, Mr. Twitchell said. Byron, Shelly and Poe all wrote about the subject.

"Nothing could have been more intensely hyperbolic than the brother-sister relationship," he said. "It was essentially an idealized sibling incest, and there is some reason to believe that Byron's incestuous relation with his sister, Augusta, was really a cover-up for a homosexual relationship, incest being more palatable than homosexuality at the time."

An obvious reason behind the current trend, he said, is the women's movement, the notion of a victim class exploited by a male power structure. "But there is a much more efficient reason," Mr. Twitchell said. "The major consuming audience of film, television and books is still in emotional adolescence, and to this audience incest is absolutely riveting."

Whether the incest theme is a sign of society's decline or a marketing device, it is as old as the biblical injunction against it. "Incest is in the foundations of Western drama," said Tom Gunning, a professor in the cinema and media program in the art department at

Alan Papp/Castle Rock Entertainment

The plot of the John Sayles's movie "Lone Star" revolves around lovers who discover they are related.

the University of Chicago. "But to discover a familial relationship and go, 'So what?' That's relatively new."

"Chinatown," Roman Polanski's 1974 film with Jack Nicholson, and Faye Dunaway as a victim of incest, played out tragically. The victim herself is killed. By ending in tragedy, most stories reinforce the notion of divine retribution.

There is, however, no thunderbolt at the end of "Lone Star." Mr. Gunning sees the seeming nonchalance of the lovers as more of an allegory about Anglo- and Mexican-American relations than a true endorsement of incest. "The idea is that they're all in it together — whites and Mexicans — and can't sort it out," he said. "It's a metaphor for the racial situation."

Beyond the Pale

But Thomas Doherty, associate professor of film studies at Brandeis University, said the appearance of incest in entertainment was an outgrowth of "greater sexual explicitness in general." Mr. Doherty is at work on a book titled "Pre-Code Hollywood: Immorality and Insurrection in American Cinema, 1930-1934." "If one talks about what is still beyond the pale," he said, "there is only child molestation, bestiality and incest."

Hollywood toyed with the theme of incest before the 1930 Motion Picture Production Code, he said. Still, movies like "Scarface" in 1932, with Paul Muni as the hood with a lust for his sister, and "Unashamed," with Robert Young as a jealous brother who kills his sister's husband, used heavy hints, not explicit sex.

The use of incest as entertainment, particularly when it is presented as morally neutral, troubles David Beatty, acting executive director of the National Victims Center, a national nonprofit organization in Arlington, Va., that helps victims of violence. "In most cases when you're talking about incest, there is nothing romantic about it," he said "What you're talking about is two victims. If we start accepting incest as a literary motif, we lose public outrage, and when we lose that, we start to condone it. I find it very troubling."

Troubling, if not trivializing. Linda Katherine Cutting's "Memory Slips" (HarperCollins, 1997) details the lifelong wounds her minister father inflicted on her as a child. Ms. Harrison's book, which she says she wrote quickly in a "white heat," seems almost self-indulgent next to Ms. Cutting's memoir. Yet Ms. Cutting, a concert pianist, has done little promotion for the book, said Jane Beirn, director of publicity for HarperCollins. "It's too hard for her to relive the tragedy of it all each time," she said.

Ms. Cutting, who once tried to kill herself, did not think of writing a book until she met a psychiatrist who had lost most of his family in the Holocaust. His message: "Stay alive so you can tell." Bearing witness, she writes, has enabled her to "restore honor to the memory of others who have survived as well as those who haven't."

Reaffirming the Sentimental

Year of the Unusual Usual Oscars

By JANET MASLIN

THIS was the year of the "Liar, Liar" Oscars. Like Jim Carrey in his latest film, participants showed a weird compulsion to blurt out the awful truth. "Thank you all for dropping by on the way to the party," said Arthur Hiller, the president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, acknowledging how media attention to the surrounding hoopla has increasingly eclipsed the awards themselves.

"Who *are* you people?" Billy Crystal joked about the ceremony's preponderance of new faces. In a year when a screenwriting Oscar turned Billy Bob Thornton from Hollywood's Zelig to one of its Cinderellas, that seemed a fair question.

"You know you've entered new territory when you realize that your outfit cost more than your film," said

Winners like 'Shine' and 'Sling Blade' were conventional at heart . . .

Jessica Yu, picking up her Oscar. (One look at the iron lung from her documentary short film and it was clear, during this "My Left Foot"/"Shine" era, that Ms. Yu was a likely winner.)

"I thought Lauren was going to get it and I think she deserves it," said the best supporting actress, Juliette Binoche, showing more grace than the camera that repeatedly peered at a crestfallen Lauren Bacall.

"Thank Michael Ondaatje," the director Anthony Minghella could be heard urging the producer Saul Zaentz, when the writer without whom "The English Patient" would have been impossible was temporarily forgotten amid that film's Oscar sweep.

"Wow," said Mr. Crystal, who attained his place in host heaven this year with the funniest Oscar film montage in memory (he did a fabulous job of inserting himself into the year's top films). "The way things are going, aside from wheat and auto parts, America's biggest export is now the Oscar."

Though Steve Martin pretended to confuse films with videocassettes and Debbie Reynolds claimed she had taken to her bed for two weeks after missing out on a best actress nomination, the evening's most revealing bit of candor came from Mr. Hiller. "We in the Academy propose an arrangement with you," he grandly told the audience. "You keep going to the movies and we'll keep making them!"

Is that Hollywood's best offer? Throughout the

Associated Press

This year's Oscars seemed to reward the unusual, but offbeat actresses like Courtney Love, star of "The People vs. Larry Flynt," were ignored.

evening, there were real and repeated signs of uncertainty about the movies' ability to sustain their magic and continue to command attention. Mr. Crystal sang mischievously about "Secrets and Lies" as if it were as peppy as "The Brady Bunch" and of Fargo as if it were Frank Sinatra's kind of town.

To the tune of "Saturday Night at the Movies," a montage showed images of thrilled, delighted moviegoers transfixed by wide-screen spectacle. But what were they watching with such wild excitement last year?

Cows flying in tornadoes? Explosions on Alcatraz? Billy Bob?

Though 1996 was widely proclaimed to be the year independent cinema outshone studio film making, the Oscar vote revealed how little has actually changed. "The English Patient" deserved its billing as out of the Hollywood mainstream, as a brilliant literary adaptation and ravishing wide-screen epic, but some of the year's supposedly offbeat films, like "Shine" and "Sling Blade" and even "Secrets and Lies," were safely conventional at heart. However skillfully acted, in the end they reaffirmed the easy, familiar and sentimental.

Meanwhile, a studio film with real daring, "The People vs. Larry Flynt," proved much too hot for the Academy to handle. Sabotaged by valid though not entirely relevant complaints about Hustler magazine, it was reviled for taking the liberties that separate dramas from documentaries. But Mr. Flynt, who made

. . . but 'The People vs. Larry Flynt' proved too hot to handle.

his way to the Oscar show uninvited and was seen crowing on camera, can thank his own penchant for gloating public appearances for much of the image problem Milos Forman's film encountered.

The closest thing to an iconoclastic studio film at the Oscars was "Jerry Maguire," which showed sweetness, originality and the temerity to re-examine the very values that Hollywood holds dear. And unfashionably attractive Tom Cruise carried that film with a subtle, revealing performance that will be fresh long after this Oscar show has faded from memory.

It happens that Geoffrey Rush delivered an uncanny impersonation of the pianist David Helfgott in "Shine," but still Mr. Cruise was robbed. While Academy voters clung to their most threadbare ideas about the sanctity of wounded innocence, Mr. Cruise gave the performance of his increasingly substantial career and did a lot to keep the film industry afloat. It would have been an act of smart Darwinism for the Oscars to acknowledge that contribution.

The Oscar show featured an especially sad eulogy montage this year, with glimpses of recently deceased directors, writers and producers as well as great stars (including a heart-tugging final image of Marcello Mastroianni). With particular eloquence, the Academy said goodbye to the past and some of its best. Now where is the future?

Scared About The Internet

Continued From Page 1

acreage has been staked and furrowed for such respectable activities as collaborating on the Human Genome Project or trading recipes for German chocolate cake.

In the public mind — molded by news reports on the old media, which are still more powerful and pervasive than anything on line — the Internet is starting to seem like a scary place, a labyrinth of electronic tunnels hiding activities and obsessions as disturbing and seedy as anything Thomas Pynchon has dreamed up.

Real or imagined, such feelings are ripe for political exploitation. This became clear when Congress debated and hastily passed the Communications Decency Act of 1996, which makes it a crime to leave indecent material out on the Net where children can find it. Earlier this month, the Clinton Administration — the very same Adminstration that promised to put every child on line — went before the Supreme Court to defend the act, which was held unconstitutional by lower courts. A lawyer for the Administration described the Internet as "a revolutionary means for displaying sexually explicit, patently offensive material to children in the privacy of their own homes," of giving "every child a free pass to every adult bookstore and video store."

As the now famous New Yorker cartoon put it, "On the Internet nobody knows that you're a dog" — or an 8-year-old closing the window on the Sesame Street site to click over to alt.sex.necrophilia. Now the Justices are left to ponder whether the Internet should be treated like the telephone, on which you should be allowed to say anything, or like television, where content can be restricted for the public good.

In the meantime, the Heaven's Gate suicides can only amplify fears that, in some quarters, may be already bordering on hysteria. The Internet, it seems, might be used to lure children not only to shopping malls, where some sicko awaits, but into joining U.F.O. cults. From listening to some people's fears, one would think that Internet bandwidth had increased to the point where a distant evil hacker could download your mind.

As in the never-ending debates about television and violence, raised now to a new hyperactive plane, the question is this: Is the Internet a source of cultural

The Internet is the best incubator yet of ideas, both ennobling and debased.

sickness or just its reflection? And as with television, cause and effect cannot be so easily untwisted. A country where murder is frighteningly common naturally gives rise to TV dramas about violence. And exposing millions of minds to fictional killing night after night might help create a climate in which violence is more likely to occur. The effect is nonlinear, like the reverberative howl arising from a microphone held too close to a loudspeaker.

On the Net everyone can reach out and touch at random, in a way that's somewhat different from blindly dialing digits on a telephone pad. The Internet is the most efficient incubator yet of ideas both ennobling and debased. Each computer terminal is a shiny surface, reflecting not just things in the real world but things in the simulated reality of the Internet.

In this wilderness-of-mirrors, a single string of mutant thoughts can be replicated over and over, distorted in the Internet funhouse until the result is impossible to untangle. Somehow the slick design of Web pages — so easily accomplished with a few dabs of Java and a cursory knowledge of the computer language called HTML — adds credence to outlandish ideas.

Confusing medium and message in a way that might have made Marshall McLuhan sick, people don't want to remember the obvious: that all the alarming things on the Internet have been around forever.

In late February, when a Nobel prize-winning scientist, Dr. Daniel Carleton Gajdusek, pleaded guilty to a charge of child molestation, news accounts zeroed in on the fact that he was snared in a Federal investigation of child pornography on the Internet. Dr. Gajdusek didn't meet the boy he admitted molesting in a cyberspace chat-room. But investigators apparently became suspicious of the scientist after they noticed Internet pedophiles discussing journals — published by the National Institutes of Health — in which he mentioned his sexual encounters with boys in Micronesia.

Bo, Peep and the Sheep

Slight as the Internet connection really was, it seemed to add to the seediness of the situation — one more shred in an accumulating pile of evidence that there are networks of people lurking out there with alien values, and that anyone, any age, might stumble onto them with a mouse click.

Not all the connections are so thinly drawn. A month after the scientist's guilty plea, a man in Long Island was accused by the Suffolk County District Attorney of using the Internet to conspire with an accomplice in North Carolina to take turns raping, torturing and sodomizing a 14-year-old girl. The very next day a Minnesota prison inmate was indicted by a Federal grand jury for conspiring to traffic in child pornography over the Internet. Among the bytes on his disk was an annotated list of thousands of children from small towns in Minnesota: "latchkey kids," "cute," "Little Ms. pageant winner."

The Long Island case is horrible enough that it would have made news even if the accused men had talked on the telephone or exchanged postcards. But would the case of the Minnesota prisoner have seemed quite so sensational if he had kept his list in a spiral notebook? Corrections officials said at the time that there was no evidence that the children's names had actually been distributed over the Internet.

As early as 1975, the leaders of Heaven's Gate, Bo and Peep, were recruiting lost souls. And back then, the most powerful personal computers available were Texas Instrument pocket calculators.

"The Two," as they also called themselves, drew the curious to meetings by posting notices with thumbtacks on bulletin boards made the old-fashioned way, with cork and wood. Maybe the Internet, with its ability to rapidly and efficiently bring together a hodgepodge of miscreants, was an important part of the group's later devolution. But it may be just as reasonable to blame the phenobarb and vodka cocktails they sipped like wine from the chalice of their strange religion.

In the end, maybe the uneasy feelings about the Internet come from seeing all the old plagues and sins recast in an unfamiliar new form. An ancient accumulation of inchoate fears has become focused inside this high-profile medium, made more easily touchable — and, it's tempting to believe, easier to control.

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About

rnet

the best

ideas, both

debased.

Sheep

ECONOMY

The New Road to Riches is Paved With Options

Investor activism lifts executive pay.

By JUDITH H. DOBRZYNSKI

DAY by day, as one corporation after another discloses what it paid its chief executive for 1996, investors are ruefully being reminded of that old adage: Be careful what you wish for, because you might get it.

What they wanted was pay for performance. That, the theory went, would rein in exorbitant payouts, especially to the undeserving.

Today, compensation for top executives is a little more closely aligned with performance, but it is higher, and rising faster, than ever.

Bowing to investor pressure, companies in recent years stopped automatically giving their top executives hefty annual raises and began handing out big packages of stock options, which allow the purchase of company stock at preferential prices if the share price rises.

But investors never anticipated *the stock market's meteoric rise.* Combined with the size of the option awards, the market's advance has delivered a stunning windfall to corporate chieftains almost regardless of individual *performance. While the* average worker got a meager 3.3 percent raise in 1996, top executives again enjoyed double-digit increases, often approaching 20 percent or more, pay experts say.

By comparison, corporate profits increased 11 percent for the year.

The grand totals dwarf the sums of previous years. Green Treen Financial paid its chief executive, Lawrence M. Coss, a package of cash, bonus and stock options worth $102 million, up from $65 million in 1995. I.B.M. gave its chairman, Louis V. Gerstner Jr., a package worth $20.2 million, up from $15.6 million in 1995. And General Electric rewarded its chairman, John F. Welch Jr., with a package worth $30 million, up from $22.5 million in 1995.

Over all, "cash compensation will be up 10 percent to 15 percent, and total direct compensation, including stock, will be up even more, 15 percent or 20 percent, for C.E.O.'s of the largest companies," predicted Ira Kay, director of the compensation practice for Watson Wyatt Worldwide, a consulting firm.

Exactly how 1996 shaped up will not be known for weeks, because many companies have yet to report. But a study of chief executives' pay at 215 large companies that had filed their annual financial statements by March 24 confirms Mr. Kay's expectations. Their median total pay — salary, bonus, the estimated present value of stock option grants and all other compensation — climbed 19.9 percent in 1996, according to Graef Crystal, a pay expert in San Diego who conducted the analysis.

Executive pay seems to rise inexorably. "What has surprised me is how little impact shareholder activists have had in this area," said John C. Wilcox, chairman of Georgeson & Company, which specializes in soliciting shareholder votes. "Egregious compensation has gone from bad to worse, and nothing seems to tame it."

That is just a slight overstatement. Pay is sliding a little for a handful of executives. At Boise Cascade, for example, George J. Harad, the chief executive, saw his total compensation, including options, drop to just over $1.7 million from *$2.7 million in 1995.*

But any declines were rare until shareholders started pressing for a link between pay and performance. Now many companies keep executive salary *increases minimal and* reward executives with other kinds of pay tied to various performance measures. Cash bonuses, for example, are most commonly linked to goals for growth in earnings per share or after-tax income. Stock options are meant to give an incentive to increase the company's share price.

With option grants, an executive receives the right to purchase at some point in the future a certain number of shares at a price set when the options are issued. As the stock price rises, the options become increasingly valuable. If the stock falls or goes nowhere, the options are worthless. Executives cannot rack up huge gains unless shareholders also do well.

What started as a good thing, however, may be getting out of hand. Option grants are becoming "larger and larger," said Robert Salwen, president of the Executive Compen*sation Corporation, a consulting firm* in New York. "They used to call them jumbo awards, but the jumbo is becoming the norm."

Mr. Crystal found that the median value of option grants jumped 27.9 percent last year, while the median increase in salary and bonus was 7 percent. The stock market, as measured by the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, rose 23 percent.

Salary now matters less and less to top corporate executives. At 56 large companies that had reported through February, salary accounted for just 22 percent of the chief executives' total 1996 pay, down from 27 percent in 1995, according to Executive Compensation Reports, a newsletter.

The Big Winners in the Options Derby

The chief executives who were paid the most in the form of stock options in 1996, or who gained the most paper wealth from the rising value of options they held, based on a review of 215 large public companies that had reported 1996 results by March 24. Figures are in millions.

GOT THE MOST IN NEW OPTIONS

		CASH COMPENSATION		STOCK OPTIONS	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	COMPANY	1995	1996	1995	1996
Michael D. Eisner	Walt Disney	$14.6	$8.7	$0.0	$181.0
Robert B. Shapiro	Monsanto	1.9	2.9	3.1	17.5
Louis V. Gerstner Jr.	I.B.M.	13.2	7.0	2.4	13.2
William P. Stiritz	Ralston Purina	2.6	2.8	3.1	12.1
John F. Grundhofer	First Bank System	1.8	2.1	2.8	11.3
Gilbert F. Amelio*	Apple Computer	—	—	—	11.2
Casey G. Cowell	U.S. Robotics	2.8	3.5	6.5	10.9
Robert B. Palmer	Digital Equipment	1.7	1.2	6.6	10.7
Paul H. O'Neill	Alcoa	2.2	1.7	7.8	10.6
Eli Broad	Sun America	6.4	12.4	5.4	10.2

Cash compensation [illegible] ***New options*** are listed at their value on Dec. 31 of the year of grant.
*Mr. Amelio [illegible] during 1996. His 1996 cash compensation [illegible] a year and includes nonrecurring items. Comparisons with 1995 are not meaningful.
[illegible]

GAINED THE MOST ON OPTIONS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE	COMPANY	RISE IN WEALTH (ON PAPER) FROM OPTIONS IN 1996
Stephen M. Case	America Online	$79.5
Eckhard Pfeiffer	Compaq Computer	62.7
Roberto C. Goizueta	Coca-Cola	61.4
Scott G. McNealy	Sun Microsystems	59.8
Daniel P. Tully	Merrill Lynch	58.7
John F. Welch Jr.	General Electric	57.0
Louis V. Gerstner Jr.	I.B.M.	54.2
Lawrence A. Bossidy	Allied Signal	48.0
Michael D. Eisner	Walt Disney	46.5
Harry C. Stonecipher	McDonnell Douglas	42.4

Options made up 45 percent of the total, up from 40 percent in 1995. The remainder came from annual cash bonuses, incentive pay tied to mul*tiyear goals and outright awards of* stock that cannot be sold until a certain amount of time passes.

"Salary has never before been such a small portion of pay," said Diane D. Posnak, *a managing direc*tor at Pearl Meyer & Partners, a pay consulting firm. "Nor have we ever seen such a large part of C.E.O. pay dependent on stock market performance."

John S. Reed, the chairman of Citicorp, exemplifies the shift. His salary and bonus declined to $3.5 million in 1996, from $4.3 million in 1995, as the banking company went, a spokesman said, "from an exceptional year to a good year." But Mr. Reed got options for 182,000 shares, up from 100,000 in 1995.

He has done well with options in the past. Last June 21, he cashed in options granted earlier for 679,000 shares of Citicorp stock. Mr. Reed did not sell the shares, but if he had, his profit would have been $40 million. Some of those options, granted in 1987, carried a price as low as $14.25 a share, and others, granted in 1993, had a price as high as $31.75. Citicorp's stock had soared to $80.50 *last June. It is now at $111.*

■

While overall pay is somewhat better attuned to performance, in*vestors are paying a price.* To compensate for the bigger risk associated with options, executives generally get big grants. "Many of the packages are astounding," said Alyssa M. Machold, deputy director of the Council of Institutional Investors.

The most astronomical numbers *emanated from the Walt Disney* Company, where the chairman, Michael D. Eisner, received $8.7 million in salary and bonus last year, plus stock options that are today valued at $181 million. That is the largest single grant in corporate history, though it was his first grant since 1989.

Even that number looks Mickey Mouse compared with the future value of Mr. Eisner's option grant — $583.7 million in 2007, as estimated by Mr. Crystal using a commonly accepted valuation model that anticipates the price of Disney's stock at the most likely time the options would be exercised. (Mr. Crystal, a former consultant who no longer counsels companies, made an exception last year and advised Mr. Eisner on pay issues at Disney.)

No one else comes close to Mr. Eisner, but other awards are mighty impressive. At Monsanto, Robert B. Shapiro, the chief executive, was given options with a present value of $17.5 million and a future value estimated at $49 million. Ralston Purina's chief executive, William P. Stiritz, was granted options with an *estimated value of $12.1 million to*day and $31.3 million in the future.

Because of the market's rise, 1996 was a banner year for option holders, at least on paper. Stephen M. Case, *the chief executive of America* Online, saw his paper wealth from options alone grow by $79.5 million, Mr. Crystal said. The paper wealth from options held by Eckhard Pfeiffer, chief executive of Compaq Computer, jumped by $62.7 million, and Roberto C. Goizueta, the chair*man of Coca-Cola, had an increase in* wealth attributed solely to options of $61.4 million. Others were not far behind.

The immense wealth of many ex*ecutives these days in part reflects a* sharp improvement in American competitiveness and fatter profits. But executive pay is nonetheless giving some knowledgeable people pause. "The question," said Thomas J. Neff, chairman of the United States operations of Spencer Stuart, the big executive recruiting firm, "is whether these humongous packages are justified even when performance is up. Who would have guessed a few years ago that the market would go this high?"

Mr. Neff added: "I suspect that boards are getting a little bit nervous about the outcome of option grants they gave a few years ago."

■

The more options a company hands out, the more shares it must issue. As a result, the company must spread its earnings more widely, diluting the ownership, dividends and voting power of existing investors.

In 1995 alone, companies set aside 11 percent of their total shares for stock option grants, according to a recent survey of 1,353 companies by *Watson Wyatt. Five years ago, that* number was more like 6 percent, Mr. Kay estimates. The Investor Responsibility Research Center, a nonprofit organization, recently said *that shareholders at 435 companies* among the Standard & Poor's 500 would lose 9.2 percent of their ownership on average from option plans in place and reported through last summer.

Already, options are distorting the profit picture. Profits at many companies are overstated because provisions for options do not have to be charged against earnings. This year, for the first time, companies will have to disclose how options may affect earnings per share — though only diligent readers of footnotes will be the wiser.

Options are so popular that hundreds of companies now spread them down to middle managers and production workers as an inducement to raise productivity. Nearly everyone has accepted broad-based option plans without debate. "They are motherhood, apple pie and Chevrolet," said Patrick S. McGurn, a vice president at Institutional Shareholder Services Inc., a consultant to large investors.

But critics complain that the broader use of options can be a smoke screen to hide what top executives are getting. "They say it's a big increase because it's a broad-based plan now," Mr. McGurn said, "but the bulk of the options go to the top executives." Indeed, the Watson Wyatt survey of 1,353 companies found that, on average, 29 percent of the options the companies granted in 1995 went to their top five executives.

Making matters worse, companies may not, in the end, let their executives' pay rest almost entirely on the fate of the market. "What happens if the market goes down?" Mr. McGurn asked. Frequently, companies lower the price at which the options can be used to buy stock.

The Linear Technology Corporation, a California maker of integrated circuits, provides a recent example. After its stock slid last summer to $21.75, the company lowered the price at which its chief executive could buy shares from options he *received in 1995* to $24.75 a share from $34.125. Linear's share price is now $46.

■

At some point, the bears on Wall Street will overtake the bulls and the market will drop. Then, "the pressure to reprice these options will be enormous," Mr. McGurn said. "It's one thing if it's an executive vice president who doesn't get his reward, but it's another thing if it's every employee. They'll say, 'This is what I was going to use to pay for the kids' braces; this is what I was going to use to pay for the car,' and that will change the dynamics of the argument."

With the market soaring, investors have yet to focus on repricing. But executive pay issues continue to fester. According to the Investor Re*sponsibility Research Center,* various shareholders, mostly individuals and unions, have so far filed 107 shareholder proposals addressing executive pay for consideration at *annual meetings this spring. Last* year, the total was 67.

Many such resolutions, however, have been rejected by the companies involved, with the Securities and Exchange Commission agreeing that the filings were flawed in one way or another. Shareholders and pay experts alike acknowledge that no one has designed a resolution that gets at the real problem.

"There are two issues in pay — how and how much," said Frederic W. Cook, a pay consultant in New York. "The 'how' is in pretty good shape. Executives are being paid right, but they are being paid a hell of a lot of money."

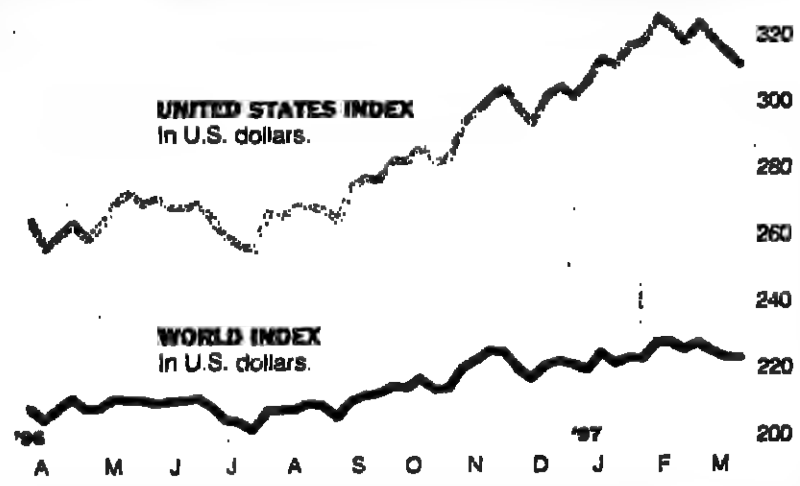
Still, reining in the amounts pocketed by executives would require another restructuring of the way they are paid, several experts said — though none seems to know a better way to do it. "The system is working as designed," said Pearl Meyer, the pay consultant, "But I fault the design. There should be a meaningful difference between pay for business performance and pay for stock market performance."

That, however, would mark a return to a more arbitrary and more subjective system, and a more distant link to shareholder return.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

PERFORMANCE

	IN U.S. DOLLARS						IN LOCAL CURR.	
Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Australia	220.64	1.4	14	− 0.6	20	4.06	187.09	0.7
Austria	186.55	0.5	19	− 1.8	22	1.79	162.54	8.9
Belgium	237.99	3.2	6	4.5	11	3.44	203.04	13.8
Brazil	236.93	− 0.2	25	24.9	1	1.12	461.75	27.3
Britain	281.66	3.1	7	− 0.5	18	3.65	255.52	4.1
Canada	188.28	− 2.4	28	− 0.8	21	2.07	188.22	− 0.1
Denmark	367.01	1.0	16	4.3	12	1.57	318.78	12.9
Finland	258.47	0.8	18	5.2	9	1.69	269.95	13.6
France	225.57	3.2	5	5.4	7	2.86	199.76	14.4
Germany	206.68	4.1	2	8.6	5	1.50	180.11	18.3
Hong Kong	455.85	0.0	22	−10.1	26	3.48	453.53	− 9.9
Indonesia	232.54	1.5	11	1.9	16	1.55	342.52	3.6
Ireland	331.13	2.2	9	0.7	17	3.25	295.62	8.0
Italy	85.55	1.0	15	2.5	15	2.14	106.95	12.8
Japan	113.79	− 2.3	27	−11.8	27	0.88	89.10	− 5.9
Malaysia	619.55	− 0.1	23	2.7	14	1.07	592.11	0.9
Mexico	1,368.66	0.9	17	12.2	3	1.11	11,854.66	12.9
Netherlands	351.63	2.6	8	4.6	10	2.55	302.49	14.0
New Zealand	84.81	0.3	20	− 7.6	25	4.39	64.83	− 6.0
Norway	312.14	2.2	10	5.6	6	2.16	280.88	9.7
Philippines	195.24	0.2	21	− 4.1	23	0.68	256.81	− 3.8
Singapore	389.42	1.6	13	− 7.2	24	1.08	259.76	− 4.0
South Africa	360.58	− 0.1	24	13.2	2	2.41	348.31	7.0
Spain	218.55	3.7	4	− 0.6	19	2.70	235.22	8.6
Sweden	444.47	4.5	1	5.4	8	2.09	497.94	16.8
Switzerland	260.60	3.7	3	9.3	4	1.36	234.36	18.0
Thailand	80.45	1.5	12	−16.0	28	3.96	81.14	−14.9
United States	314.29	− 1.3	26	4.1	13	1.92	314.29	4.1
COMPOSITE INDICES								
Europe	247.92	3.2		3.5		2.72	226.97	11.0
Pacific Basin	133.76	− 1.6		−10.0		1.41	103.45	− 5.6
Europe/Pacific	181.34	1.1		− 2.8		2.16	150.07	3.2
World	225.78	− 0.1		0.7		2.04	201.33	3.7



Week-end figures are Thursday closes except Italy, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand (Friday). Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Thursday's London close.
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CURRENCIES

Exchange rates	Thursday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	123.48	122.85	+0.51	107.26
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.6736	1.6861	−0.74	1.4762
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3788	1.3795	−0.05	1.3595
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6315	1.6033	+1.75	1.5270

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets, exchange rates as of Thursday's New York close.

UPS AND DOWNS

March 24-28: As the Fed Raises Rates, Stocks and Bonds Fall

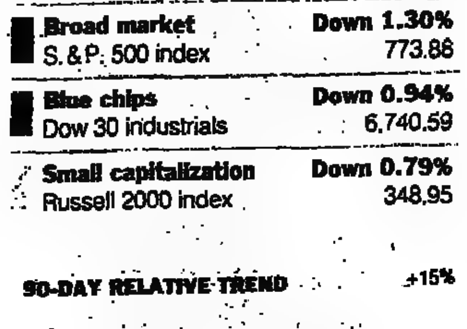
Thursday closes, except European and Asian stocks (Friday data for some countries).
Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer, Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

PRICES

DOMESTIC EQUITIES

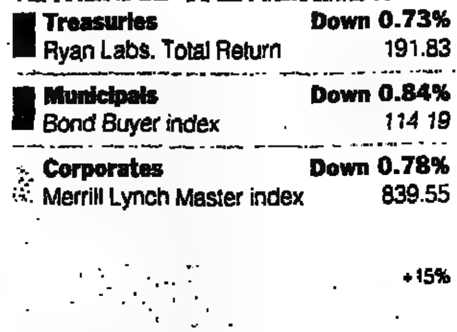
Broad market	S.&P. 500 index	Down 1.30%	773.88

Broad market	S.&P. 500 index	**Down 1.30%**	773.88
Blue chips	Dow 30 industrials	**Down 0.94%**	6,740.59
Small capitalization	Russell 2000 index	**Down 0.79%**	348.95



DOMESTIC BONDS

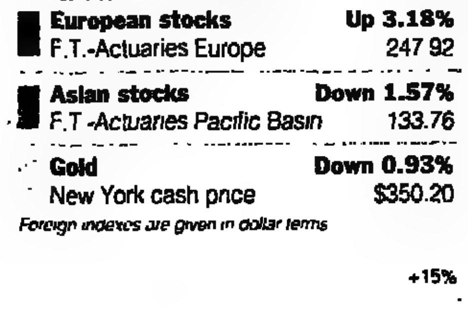
Treasuries	Ryan Labs. Total Return	**Down 0.73%**	191.83
Municipals	Bond Buyer index	**Down 0.84%**	114.19
Corporates	Merrill Lynch Master index	**Down 0.78%**	839.55



AROUND THE WORLD

European stocks	F.T.-Actuaries Europe	**Up 3.18%**	247.92
Asian stocks	F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	**Down 1.57%**	133.76
Gold	New York cash price	**Down 0.93%**	$350.20

Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms

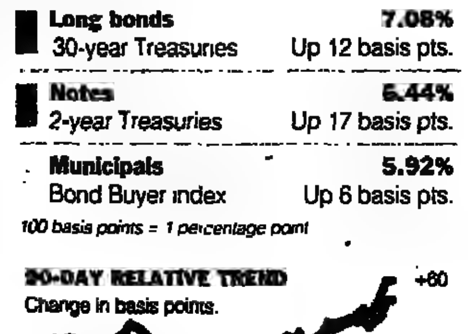


YIELDS

BONDS

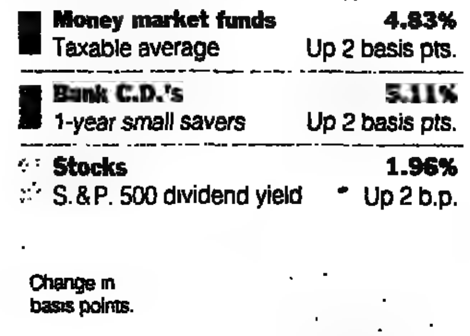
Long bonds	30-year Treasuries	**7.08%**	Up 12 basis pts.
Notes	2-year Treasuries	**6.44%**	Up 17 basis pts.
Municipals	Bond Buyer index	**5.92%**	Up 6 basis pts.

100 basis points = 1 percentage point



OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds	Taxable average	**4.83%**	Up 2 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	1-year small savers	**5.11%**	Up 2 basis pts.
Stocks	S.&P. 500 dividend yield	**1.96%**	Up 2 b.p.



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A Bargain in the Harbor

Open space with waterfront access is a rare thing in New York City, so when someone offers an accessible 173-acre island for less than the price of a cheeseburger, responsible officials should jump at it. President Clinton has made such an offer. He proposes to transfer control of Governors Island in New York Harbor to the city and state for exactly one dollar. Since Mr. Clinton's budget office values the property at $500 million, this is on its face an irresistible deal.

It is not, though, quite as cost-free as it seems. Even if New York acquires the island for $1, it will inherit $30 million in annual operational and maintenance costs that the Coast Guard, the island's present tenant, is eager to shed. New York will also lose millions more in annual revenues that the Coast Guard brings to the region.

Nevertheless, Mr. Clinton has handed the city a splendid chance to create new public spaces and to make creative use of its underappreciated marine environment. What is needed now is for state and city officials to produce a plausible plan. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, to whom Mr. Clinton first made the offer early last year, fears that unless such a plan is set forth this year, the President will lose interest and Congress, which must approve any deal, will put the island on the market.

There are several good reasons why it would not make economic sense for Congress to sell. For one thing, it may never find a buyer at $500 million or even half that, since developers are notoriously leery of island properties. Also, while searching for a buyer, the Government would be responsible for a high-maintenance lemon with heavy operating costs. Rather than watching this scenario unfold, Senator Moynihan wants to see the city move quickly on a plan of its own.

Governors Island was once the home of Britain's colonial governors, hence its name. In American hands, it has served as a fort, a race track, a game preserve and an Army base for 100 years until the Coast Guard took it over in 1966. About half the island, which includes Revolutionary War fortifications and elegant 19th-century homes, is protected from alteration as a city landmark district. The other half contains barracks and large open spaces. The island commands sweeping views of the harbor, Manhattan and Brooklyn.

There is no shortage of ideas about what to do with this acreage. Some would turn the half of the island that is not already landmarked into playing fields and parks. Others would build housing for the elderly. A report from the Regional Plan Association released Thursday speaks vaguely of "something like Central Park with a large water feature, a public space, a harbor commons."

Whatever the outcome, the planning should be guided by two principles. First, in a manner consistent with its esthetic and recreational value, the island should be self-sustaining, so that it does not become a drain on municipal resources. Large-scale private development should be ruled out, but the city needs to find one or more institutions — a college, for example — to lease the island's historic buildings, thus providing for their upkeep.

The second principle is public access. That part of the island not devoted to institutional activity should be made accessible to all New Yorkers. There could be recreational facilities, playing fields, perhaps a marina. Whatever the mix, Governors Island must be seen as an opportunity to enrich the city's quality of life.

Neither objective can be met without convenient transportation, but even this need not be a money-losing proposition. Some planners see no reason why the existing hodgepodge of subsidized ferries cannot be replaced with a profitable operation that makes regular calls at Governors Island, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Speed is important, and not just to head off some foolish action by Congress. The Coast Guard, which has been a loving custodian of Governors Island, will vacate the premises this summer. Because unoccupied buildings tend to deteriorate in a hurry, a drawn-out planning process will make the island less attractive to any potential occupant. Delay could also cheat New York's citizens of what could be a grand public resource. It would be good to have a coherent scheme to show the President before the Coast Guard decamps.

Mammograms for Younger Women

So now it is unanimous. The National Cancer Institute has joined the American Cancer Society and other medical groups in recommending routine mammograms for all women in their 40's. True, the groups differ on some details. The cancer institute recommends testing every year or two whereas the Cancer Society has just come out firmly for annual tests. Either way, the consensus now holds that there is no good reason for women in their 40's to avoid these potentially life-saving screening tests to detect breast cancer.

All groups have long recommended that women from 50 on up undergo mammography. The benefits of early detection followed by prompt treatment are unambiguous for those women. But the issue of whether mammograms are effective in younger women, from 40 to 50, is murky. Four years ago the cancer institute broke ranks with then-prevailing wisdom and asserted that there was not enough evidence to endorse the value of routine screening for women in their 40's. Even after additional studies reported finding a benefit, a panel of experts convened by the National Institutes of Health in January again found the evidence inconclusive. It recommended that individual women and their doctors make their own decisions on whether mammography was warranted.

That muddled message accurately reflected the uncertainties in the scientific data, but it was met with a crescendo of boos from many cancer specialists, members of Congress sensing strong voter interest in the dread disease and some, but by no means all, patient advocacy groups. In the real world where medical decisions must be made, such uncertain advice is not received kindly. Patients and doctors alike want clear marching orders.

Now they have them. After yet another advisory panel reviewed the very same evidence available in January but saw clarity amid the murk, the cancer institute has now flipped once again and endorsed mammograms for the 40-year-olds, protesting all the while that it was not knuckling under to political or public pressure. The only remaining uncertainty is how many women will follow the now unified urging that they get screened in their 40's. Even over 50, where the benefits are unequivocally clear, great numbers of women fail to take the life-saving tests.

Editorial Notebook

The West's Debt to Byzantium

A Cultural Lesson In a Gorgeous Mosaic

Although not intended by its sponsors, and not noticed by most visitors, there is a fascinating political subtext to "The Glory of Byzantium," the Metropolitan Museum's sumptuous new show about Byzantine culture at its peak, from the 9th century to the 13th. (The show ends in July.)

You might think this celebration of the arts and letters of a thoroughly defunct empire would be politically inert, but not so. According to a Harvard professor, Samuel Huntington, Byzantium and its Orthodox Church belong not to the West but to the "Rest," namely the assorted "Others" lacking the unique core of institutions and beliefs said to constitute Western civilization.

This core, Mr. Huntington writes in a recent Foreign Affairs essay, includes the classical legacy of Greece and Rome — the rule of law, and civil society and social pluralism, the latter pair being defined as the rise and persistence of autonomous groups not based on kinship. Because the "Rest" are so different, the professor contends, it is an error to try to universalize such Western concepts as human rights. In short, we have to learn to live with a "clash of civilizations."

But the clash takes an odd turn as one walks through galleries filled with Byzantine icons, statuary, illuminated books and mosaics, many of which have never left such places as the monasteries of Mount Athos in Greece or St. Catherine's in the sands below Mount Sinai. Here one is reminded afresh that great cultures are not boxed behind fault lines, but spill messily all over the map, filling the interstices and soaking the subsoil.

This was true of the Greek-speaking Byzantines, whose scholars and monks kept classical art, letters and science alive for a millennium after the fall of the feebler Western Roman Empire. The Orthodox images of the bearded Jesus and the Holy Family spread through Gothic Europe to Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine, just as Byzantine architecture swept the Islamic East, in Italy. Eastern icons form a connecting link to the early Renaissance.

As to the principles of civil society and social pluralism, it is fair to say that Byzantium's most zealous tormentors lay in the Christian West, not the Islamic East. In 1204, the walls of Constantinople, which had withstood attacks by Persians, Arabs, Avars and Bulgars, fell to the Crusaders led by the craftiest of Venetian doges, Enrico Dandoldo, then about 85 and nearly blind, who led the way, shouting, through the breach.

There followed three days of pillage and massacre, of book-burning and heresy hunting, on an unprecedented scale. "Even the Saracens are merciful and kind," declared a Byzantine writer, in comparison with those "who bear the cross of Christ on their shoulders." Or in the satisfied words of a Western chronicler of the Fourth Crusade, never since Creation had "such a vast quantity of booty" been taken from one city.

Byzantium was fatally weakened by the invasion and the years of occupation that followed, opening the way for the Ottoman conquest in 1453 under Sultan Mehmet II. By that time, so disenthralled were Byzantines with the West that one of the empire's highest officials expostulated, "I would rather see the Muslim turban in the midst of the city than the Latin miter."

Whatever their other sins, and however they diminished the rights of minorities, the Ottomans proved to be more respectful of Orthodox Christianity than the Western Church. Moreover, in 1492, when Spain ordered the mass expulsion of the Jews, they were able to flee to Ottoman lands. This comparative tolerance finds expression in the wonderful illuminated books at the Metropolitan from St. Catherine's in the Sinai. Its library is rivaled only by that of the Vatican, and its survival attests to a long Islamic tradition of multicultural tolerance, often overlooked in the West, sometimes even at Harvard.

KARL E. MEYER

Use Democratic India as Counterweight to China

To the Editor:
A. M. Rosenthal's columns on India (March 21 and 25) are heartening. India is the world's biggest democracy, and we have a common bond, for we were both British colonies. We also imported India's method of peaceful dissent, which fueled our civil rights movement in the 1960's. And the tremendous number of immigrants from India contribute so much to this country.

We would be wise to cultivate this bond for several reasons. Economically, India is an enormous unclaimed Asian market timed to emerge just as China's market matures, much in the way China's market emerged as Japan's was maturing. Culturally, standing by a solid agrarian democracy as it grows on the world scene would go a long way toward advancing American ideas globally. Politically, a confident, democratic India allied with the United States can provide leverage against a tyrannical China.

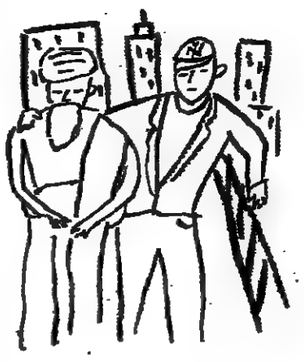
Many fear this century will be America's last great hurrah as a superpower, and that the next century will belong to the Chinese. But if we stick to our tradition of being the advocate of democracy worldwide, our way of life will continue to reign supreme. Leaning toward India is the next logical step down that path.

DAVID FRIEDMAN
New York, March 25, 1997

A Modern Nation

To the Editor:
I fail to understand why A. M. Rosenthal cannot see the change in India in the last 40 years (columns, March 21 and 25).

A middle class once barely existed. The middle class today is larger



Santiago Cohen

than the combined populations of Western Europe.

Mr. Rosenthal would have readers believe that India still has only a few hundred miles of paved roads, that it lacks electricity and that farmers suffer because virtually nothing has been done to help them.

Most villages, towns and cities are connected by paved roads. Two-thirds of villages have electricity, and the vast irrigation system in some states is responsible for India's Green Revolution.

India is the 10th-largest industrialized nation and ranks seventh in scientific research and development.

RANJIT BAROT
Livingston, N.J., March 26, 1997

Just Human Nature

To the Editor:
A. M. Rosenthal's "People of Sarila" (column, March 25) might have been better titled "Rudyard Redux."

In the tradition of Kipling, Mr. Rosenthal has composed a paternalistic paean to Indian peasants who, he suggests, are somehow more worthy (and politicians who are more exploitive) than the wise white men who sagely observe their quaint ways.

I have spent time in India too, and I found that the Indian character runs the gamut: from venal to noble, corrupt to scrupulous, deceitful to honest and ignorant to enlightened. In other words, the citizens of India are human beings just like us Americans.

MARGOT EMBREE FISHER
Teaneck, N.J., March 26, 1997

Global Protest

To the Editor:
There was a glaring omission in "Insecure or Jobless, Europeans Renew Protests" (Business Day, March 25), on the resistance of European workers to their future's being sacrificed on an altar emblazoned "internationally competitive or bust."

It failed to point out that workers and farmers all over the world are responding to globalization by calling for protection of jobs and communities.

South Korean workers have been in the streets. In Mexico, thousands marched in support of Zapatista rebels who want their livelihoods protected.

In India, half a million people protested against the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Yet in the United States, inertia seems to reign in the face of growing job insecurity.

Perhaps it's time Americans joined workers in other parts of the world to defend their jobs and communities against the adverse effects of globalization.

COLIN HINES
East Twickenham, England
March 27, 1997

Find Common Ground on Species Law

To the Editor:
As your March 24 editorial "An Endangered Act" notes, the draft of the endangered species bill prepared by Senators John Chafee and Dirk Kempthorne has a good way to go before it earns mainstream support.

Under the existing act, conservation groups are contributing to habitat conservation plans that protect whole ecosystems and avoid repetitive conflicts between imperiled species and economic development. Conservationists have also put forward detailed proposals to improve the act by adopting tax incentives to make it more hospitable for property owners, and to involve communities early and often in the species recovery planning process.

But the Chafee-Kempthorne bill posits a retreat by turning over authority to review Federal projects for their possible harm to endangered wildlife to the very agencies promoting those projects. Further, the core purpose of the act could be compromised by a bill that would "freeze" some habitat conservation plans in place even if changing circumstances seriously jeopardized species recovery.

To be enacted, the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act needs to be based on finding common ground, and addressing the concerns of both conservationists and landowners. This bill isn't there yet.

MARK VAN PUTTEN
President and Chief Executive
National Wildlife Federation
Vienna, Va., March 27, 1997

A Bipartisan Measure

To the Editor:
As your March 24 editorial "An Endangered Act" notes, the Endangered Species Act is the most controversial of the environmental laws enacted during the Nixon era. Indeed, it is controversial because it is a powerful tool for protecting species from harmful Federal activities. It is also controversial because it is an inefficient tool for protecting species on private lands.

Contrary to the viewpoints expressed in your editorial, we do not believe our effort in any way undermines the goals of the Endangered Species Act. Last year I worked with the Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, Senator Max Baucus and the environmental community to prevent enactment of legislation that would have undermined the law. This year, Senator Dirk Kempthorne and I are circulating a discussion draft to elicit criticism and suggestions for improvement before introducing any bill. We are working with Secretary Babbitt, Senator Baucus and Senator Harry Reid to develop a bipartisan bill.

Our challenge is to write a bill that preserves the best features of the law, makes improvements and can be enacted with the cooperation of Congress and the President.

JOHN H. CHAFEE
Washington, March 25, 1997
The writer is chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

How Bad Are Unorthodox Films for Children?

To the Editor:
I refer to an item in the Metro Business column ("Channel 5 Apologizes," March 27) in which it is reported that, having received a vociferous complaint from a Staten Island English teacher, Channel 5 apologized for broadcasting "Eating Raoul," a film co-written and directed by me, at 3 o'clock last Sunday afternoon.

As a writer-director of what are often referred to as "cult films" ("Death Race 2000," "Scenes From the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills"), I am constantly concerned that my work reaches a relatively limited audience. Imagine my amazement when "Eating Raoul," a movie that questions time-honored American attitudes toward sex and violence and exposes a brief glimpse of breasts (tastefully fogged on Channel 5, I am relieved to report), showed up in prime time on Fox TV. Nobody at the station seems able to explain how it happened. The advertisers were especially bemused.

Now I agree there is a time and a place for such a film. Perhaps it is not 3 in the afternoon on a Sunday. Still, I wonder if the dangers of exposing children to unorthodox ideas, even in comic form, and to certain parts of the anatomy, the existence of which many of them must surely suspect, is really such a dangerous thing?

PAUL BARTEL
New York, March 28, 1997

'Everybody Did It'

To the Editor:
In "Supreme Leader, Pigeon in Chief" (Week in Review, March 23), you collected supported and unsupported accusations of previous American Presidents in order to show that Bill Clinton is not so bad after all. This is the "everybody did it" defense.

BORIS M. SEGAL
Pleasantville, N.Y., March 27, 1997

Arafat Treats Hamas as Ally, Not Enemy

To the Editor:
Your March 26 news analysis said that after the Hamas suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in February 1996, "Under intense Israeli and American pressure, [Yasir] Arafat rounded up about 1,000 [Hamas] radicals. ... But as relations with [Benjamin] Netanyahu slipped, Mr. Arafat began freeing some of the detainees."

Mr. Arafat's policy of releasing imprisoned Hamas terrorists has nothing to do with the quality of his relations with Prime Minister Netanyahu. On April 3, 1996, the Israeli daily Haaretz said Mr. Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization had already "released most of the Hamas activists that they arrested after the Tel Aviv bombing."

Mr. Arafat's more recent release of Hamas leaders, such as Ibrahim Maqadmeh and Sheik Ahmed Nimar, is consistent with his policy of treating Hamas terrorists as allies, not enemies, despite his commitment in the Oslo accords to fight terrorists.

MORTON A. KLEIN
National President
Zionist Organization of America
New York, March 26, 1997

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send by electronic mail to letters@nytimes.com, or by regular mail to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-3959.

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More Abortion Bans

To the Editor:
Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, is discussing with Speaker Newt Gingrich (news article, March 23) a strategy of scheduling a series of votes in the House of Representatives to outlaw abortion in developmental stages. That is, they want first to vote on banning abortions in the ninth month, then the eighth, and so on.

Can a ban on hysterectomies be far behind?

RITA BULAND
New York, March 24, 1997

Foreign Aid Merger

To the Editor:
Every time I read Thomas L. Friedman's column, I smile and agree. Not this time. His March 27 column suggesting that the Administration should allow the merger of the Agency for International Development, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the United States Information Agency into the State Department is misguided.

Mr. Friedman argues that, with the end of the cold war, we no longer need to separate development assistance objectives from our diplomatic structure. The reverse is true. When we used foreign aid as a tool to fight Communism, it might as well have been part of the State Department.

Now that we can focus aid on development assistance for the alleviation of hunger and poverty, the agency with that noble mission should not be encumbered with State Department control. That will only fog its mission and render it less effective.

If Congress and the President want a more effective foreign aid program, merger is the wrong way to get it.

CHARLES F. DAMBACH
Pres., National Peace Corps Assn.
Washington, March 27, 1997

Lease the TV Spectrum

To the Editor:
Bob Dole's assertion (Op-Ed, March 27) that the broadcast spectrum for digital TV should be auctioned off is extremely problematic. Yes, the broadcasters should be required to pay a "fair price" for the use of this natural resource, but a one-time, multibillion-dollar auction is not the answer.

The broadcast spectrum is a natural resource owned by the American people. Instead of selling it off in a budget-balancing frenzy, why not lease it? By implementing licensing fees, the Federal Communications Commission could maintain stewardship of the airwaves while creating a long-term moneymaker for the Feds.

ANTHONY D. PASKINS
New York, March 27, 1997

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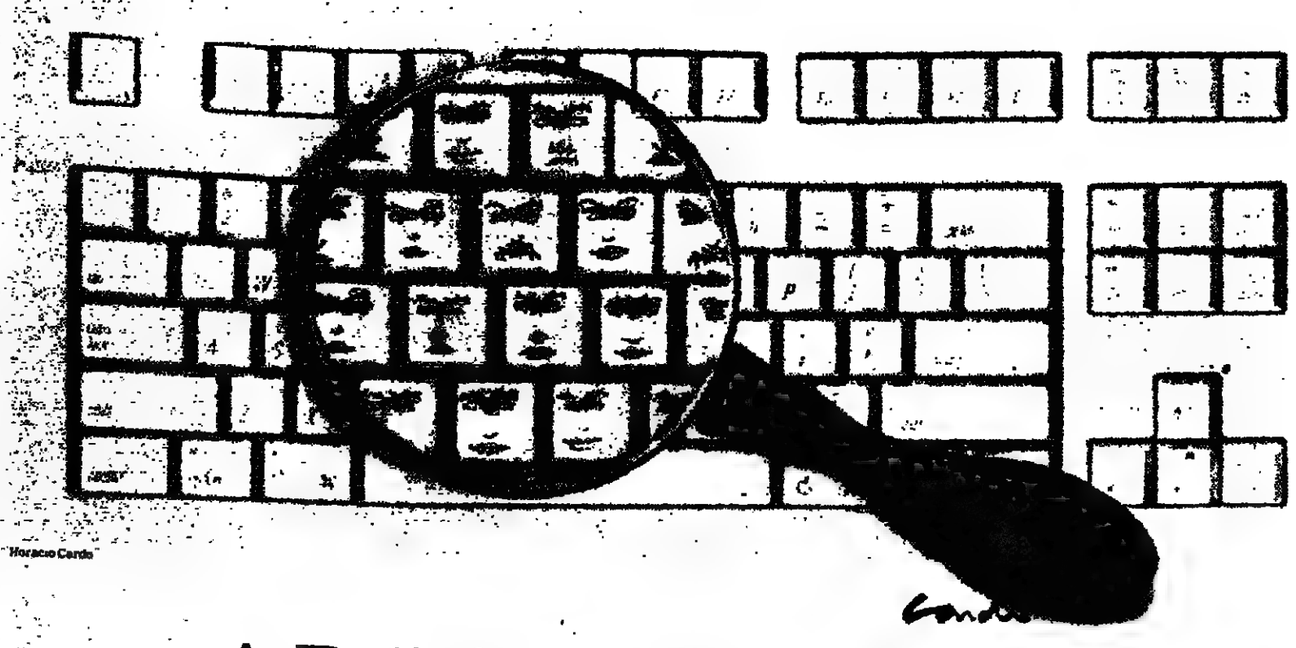


Horacio Cardo

A Religion of Special Effects

By David Gelernter

NEW HAVEN

Thirty-nine people killed themselves in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., last week. Did the Internet have something to do with it? The cultists ran a Web-page design business. They may have trolled for new members by sending E-mail to likely targets. They believed an alien spaceship was hiding behind the Hale-Bopp comet; they may have got the news over the Net, where rumors spread fast.

This alien spaceship, they decided, would pick them up, but only if they were dead. They took this in stride, and are reported to have been "very upbeat, very outgoing" on the videotape they left behind in lieu of a suicide note.

It is tempting to blame the Internet at least in part, but the Net is no more guilty than the rope industry is when people hang themselves. More likely, the tragedy stems from the fact that as a nation we have never been more confused about good and evil, righteousness and wickedness, God and man. Yet we would always rather blame technology than ourselves.

Some cult pulls in a cosmic signal portending apocalypse, and acts accordingly — it's a sad old story. Until last week, the mass suicides of recent years — the People's Temple in Guyana, the Branch Davidians in Waco, the 74 members of the Order of the Solar Temple — were accomplished with no help from the Web. The Internet, we are told, is a terrifically potent spreader of rumors. Granted, but radio was more potent. (One memorable night in 1938, Orson Welles created widespread panic by broadcasting blow-by-blow reports of an invasion from Mars.)

If technology is to blame, why not blame the movies? It's clear that the cultists got their ideas about alien spaceships from Hollywood. But you can't really blame the movies. Technology merely highlights and underlines the text it is given. If you look at modern America and then at the Rancho Santa Fe suicides, you cannot help but conclude that this story is about religion, not technology.

Evidently, the cult's goal in recent years was to "overcome" any attachment to money, sex and family life, and to live in a strictly authoritarian community — a re-creation of the poverty, chastity and obedience of Christian holy orders. Its members seemed to reach repeatedly for traditional Christian ideas and come up bare — their souls needed religion but their minds were stocked only with Hollywood junk.

They wanted to talk about their condition as believers, but the term they came up with to describe themselves was "crew members." Life on earth was no good, they held, because it was dominated by "Luciferians" and "space aliens" — Christianity plus a vivid bit of science fiction. The theology tract at their Web site was called "An E.T. Presently Incarnate." This is Christian language — "et incarnatus est" — in the service of Hollywood special effects.

Don't blame the Internet for the cultists' deaths.

Granted, weird cults (including suicidal ones) have been around for a long time. What is new in today's America is that traditional religion has been suppressed for a generation. Not in the sense that believers are hounded into prison; "suppressed" in the sense that the public domain has been vigorously swept clean of it by judges and opinion leaders who are proud of what they are doing.

A few highlights: the Supreme Court outlawed prayer and Bible reading in the public schools (1962), forbade a public high school to display the Ten Commandments (1980), barred "moments of silence" in the classroom (1987), prohibited nonsectarian prayers at public school graduations (1992).

In a recent article in The Public Interest, Jeremy Rabkin described a 1995 case in which a Federal appeals court denied parents the right to sue their school system over a ninth-grade sex-education program produced by a company called Hot, Sexy and Safer Productions. The program called for children to blow up condoms and "share with each other" their facial expressions during orgasm. A society where Orgasm Studies are protected in the public schools and the Ten Commandments are forbidden isn't neutral on religion; it is actively against it.

The old-line Protestant denominations are in deep trouble today, and Reform and Conservative Judaism are falling apart. Many of their leaders see their mission in social terms rather than God terms. This religious disintegration was symbolized in an article that ran last year in The New York Times, headlined, "One Holiday That Retains Its Meaning." Thanksgiving, it was reported, is "the one day when the perennial love of togetherness and a festive meal still seems fresh."

Practicing Jews and Christians apparently shrugged off this curious report of the death of Christmas, Easter, Passover — the press has been known to get things wrong. Yet the article is almost certainly correct. Among the nation's elite, traditional religion is indeed dead and only Thanksgiving "retains its meaning."

The idea that suppressing religion in the public sphere could actually *mean* anything or have consequences is, for the average sophisticate, a proposition to snort at. Yet here we are as a nation starved for religion, and the hunger is fiercest at upper social levels, where people set up shop as Web-page designers. The fundamentalist churches are doing fine, but they don't do much business among the technological elite. When the old religions are reeling, people cobble together new ones. In spiritually ignorant times like ours the new ones won't be much good, generally speaking, but people need *something*.

Environmentalism is a favorite religion nowadays; its leaders are explicit about its spiritual side. You can't display the Ten Commandments in public school these days, but teachers are encouraged to peddle recycling dogma. Environmentalism is not for everyone, though, and it seems likely that the tragedy of Heaven's Gate is the story of spiritually famished people whipping up a religion like island castaways piecing together, in their dire need, a semblance of civilization out of driftwood and spit.

So is the Supreme Court responsible for what happened in Rancho Santa Fe? Of course not. Nor is the American Civil Liberties Union. A person makes his own choices; there are plenty of practicing Jews and Christians today. But there is enough indirect guilt to go around.

For several decades in the middle of this century, the air in many American cities was filthy and made people sick. The smoke-belching factory downtown didn't kill the dying man in the suburbs; it merely added its bit to a mildly poisonous atmosphere that killed the weakest. Today's crusade against religion has done the same sort of thing. Most of us shrug it off. The crusaders keep hitting us, but we can take it. The stronger among us remain Christians and Jews in the old sense, or find satisfaction in America's new secular religions. The weaker join cults. The weakest die. □

David Gelernter, a professor of computer science at Yale and an adjunct fellow at the Manhattan Institute, is the author of "1939: The Lost World of the Fair" and the forthcoming "Drawing Life: Good, Evil and Mail Bombs in Modern America."

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Harry Lee's Slur

WASHINGTON

The dictator of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew — long known to his American business admirers as Harry Lee — has just fallen on his face in a way that heartens freedom-lovers everywhere.

For decades, Lee has used a corrupt judiciary to repress political opposition to his rule. His lap-dog judges impose crippling libel judgments to silence press criticism of their master.

This year, as usual, the dictator went to the judges with a demand that a Singapore dissident who dared to campaign vigorously be punished for "defamation." The offender raced across the causeway to Malaysia, citing not just the certainty of financial ruin but death threats.

Then Lee blundered. In an affidavit to his lickspittle judges, he hooted at the opposition politician's fear: "If there is anywhere where people can do him harm," it was the neighboring Malaysian city of Johor, a place Lee called "notorious for shooting, muggings, and car-jackings."

Dictatorial etiquette in Asia permits you to jeer with impunity at "Western values" of freedom and human dignity, but you must never, never suggest imperfection in the country next door.

Malaysia erupted at the insult. "Deeply hurt" was the mildest reaction; one firebrand demanded Singapore's water supply be cut off. Protesters in the (somewhat unsafe) streets denounced Lee, a cunning 73, as "senile" and the Malay Government allowed an even more subversive sentiment to be displayed: "Respect human rights in Singapore."

Lee and his son, the strongman-in-waiting, were forced to apologize for the slur. Their spokesman blamed the mean-spirited press for reporting the prevalence of muggings across the Straits, a condition all believing Singaporeans now realize does not exist.

But it was not diplomatic politesse that dictated the dictator's order to the court to expunge his impolitic testimony. Business is no longer booming; Singapore's electronic exports plummeted last year; employers are finding cheaper land and labor in Malaysia and Indonesia.

This is hardly the moment for Lee to offend his closest neighbor and — along with the U.S. — a major trading partner. The Malays have taken sly advantage of the dictator's gaffe by pressing for replacement of the old causeway linking the island with the peninsula by a bridge, that would permit ships to bypass the port of Singapore to use Malaysia's Port Klang. What do dictators do when times get tough, or when competition squeezes? They become more repressive, lest economic discontents spawn political challenge. And to keep power in the family, they bait foreign purveyors of individual rights.

That's why the "Singapore model"

Comeuppance to Singapore's boss.

is so instructive. Its economic flexibility and political rigidity — drawing strength from Western investment while reviling our democratic values — shows us what can happen, on a huge scale, in China.

The same American business executives who like doing business in ultra-orderly Singapore are eager to build up China as an authoritarian superpower. Example: Maurice Greenberg, the insurance tycoon who led the Nixon Center's recent obeisance to Lee Kuan Yew is on the board of advisers to China's Citic; that's the military-industrial empire whose shining light and leading arms dealer, Wang Jun, was ushered by an Asian agent of influence into the White House to be greeted by the U.S. President.

Harry Lee, the man these misguided Americans think of as their friend, must be transfixed by this summer's takeover of Hong Kong by China. He realizes that China will permit no serious competition from Singapore as Southeast Asia's main connection to the West. As a realist, Lee is positioning his island to be a pilot fish to China's whale.

That's why his house organ, The Straits Times, joins Al Gore in minimizing Beijing's sinister intervention in U.S. elections. "The powerful expect to be courted," opined Lee's mouthpiece (which, in a fit of perversity, may run this column, festooned with apoplectic rebuttals). "The Clinton Administration will not find it easy to get the Republican and media monkeys off its back."

Harry Lee, his U.S. business friends, China's despots and nepots, and Nixon-Clinton Sinophiles make strange bedfellows. Fortunately for freedom, an equally motley opposition is beginning to take shape. □

Journal

FRANK RICH

The Suicides Next Door

As the network news shows were first airing the videotapes from Rancho Santa Fe on Thursday evening, I was sitting in a Broadway theater watching the actor Rip Torn declare how wonderful America is. Mr. Torn plays the role of Will Kidder, a can-do 63-year-old businessman in the can-do boom town of Houston, 1950, in Horton Foote's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "The Young Man From Atlanta." Will tells anyone who will listen that he lives in the best house in the best city in the best country in the world.

But Will's faith is tested. He has lost his job. His only child, a 37-year-old son, has drowned in an apparent but inexplicable suicide. And his wife is so deep in grief that she has put down her Bible to seek spiritual solace from her child's former roommate, a mysterious, ostensibly religious young man from Atlanta whom Will believes to be a con artist.

Mr. Foote has been writing plays set in the very heart of America for more than half a century, and he understands this country so well that "The Young Man From Atlanta" almost seems like a companion piece to the real-life drama that was unfolding on TV simultaneously with Thursday's triumphant opening night. The segue from his final curtain to "Nightline" was seamless. Like the Kidders, many Americans pride themselves on living in the best houses in the best towns in the best and most religious country in the world. And yet in the midst of all this plenty and spirituality, people drown without coherent explanation, leaving more questions than answers behind.

The mass suicide outside San Diego is in some particulars another casebook cult scenario to be measured against Jonestown or Waco. Yet it seems even more disturbing because it lacks those apocalypses' dusty scruffiness and violent mad-dog flameouts. Here was a mass suicide suitable for Better Homes and Gardens.

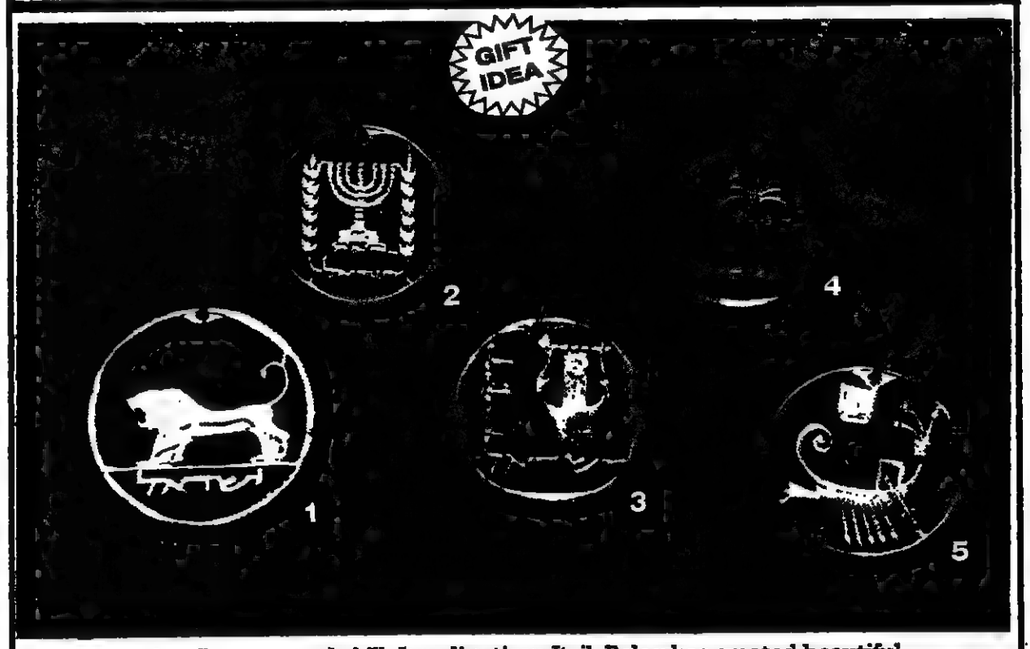
Last stop, suburbia.

The Heaven's Gate folk killed themselves in the sort of palatial suburban villa, complete with tennis court and swimming pool, that has defined the American dream from Will Kidder's postwar day to our own. They were not unemployable deadbeats but successful practitioners of the most exalted and lucrative new American profession — computer geek. They lived inconspicuously in not one but two of our most desirable neighborhoods: Rancho Santa Fe and cyberspace, both virgin venues for wholesale death. They died not with their boots on but in immaculately new Nike running shoes our kids would pray for. They cleaned up after one another, leaving the death scene so spic and span it could be used in a TV commercial testifying to the prowess of household cleansers.

In keeping with this picture of fastidious suburban affluence, the cult's leader, Marshall Applewhite, was not a volcanic Koresh or Manson or Jones but a smooth-talking, professorial flim-flam man like Oz's Professor Marvel — albeit a Marvel for a media-savvy age. Mr. Applewhite trained, appropriately enough, in the performing arts. He was in "Oklahoma!" and "South Pacific" at college and later had a career as both a church choir director and a singer with the Houston Grand Opera. He publicized his cult through books, interviews with national magazines, a USA Today ad and a public-access cable TV show before joining much of America on line. While his considerable video and cyber trails of pronouncements may now, with hindsight, strike us as utterly mad, they failed to attract much attention, let alone suspicion, right up until he staged his doomsday.

After the corpses were found, the San Diego County Sheriff, Bill Kolender, said that there may never be an answer to "the question that's on everybody's mind: Why did they do this?" In "The Young Man From Atlanta," the Kidders can't readily answer that question about their smart and seemingly content son's suicide either, any more than they can know whether the young man offering them prayers is an apostle or a bush-league Applewhite. But in the best country in the world it is hard to accept any troubling questions as unanswerable, especially when tragedy unfolds in a setting that fits our contented self-image of unstoppable economic progress and sunlit domestic bliss. We want to dismiss nightmares like this as the kind of distant, alien catastrophe that cannot happen here — but we're not in Jonestown anymore. □

Historical Creations



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FILM

'The Devil's Own': Disaster? Was There Really a Disaster?

By IAN FISHER

EVEN ALAN J. PAKULA, the veteran director who has seen his share of hard times on movie sets, does not shy away from the word "disaster" to describe some aspects of filming "The Devil's Own" last year.

Brad Pitt, one of the two stars, threatened to quit early in the shoot, complaining that the script was incomplete and incoherent. He later denounced the movie as "the most irresponsible bit of film making — if you can even call it that — that I've ever seen." The co-star, Harrison Ford, kept his mouth shut at the time but said recently that there was little that he would disagree with in Mr. Pitt's criticisms. Ego clashes, budget overruns and long delays plagued the project.

Every few years, Hollywood produces a movie that months before its release is labeled the next "Ishtar," "Bonfire of the Vanities" or "Heaven's Gate." Usually the same factors are present — big stars, a big-name director, big money and big, last-minute rewrites, all colliding like cars in a freeway pileup.

"The Devil's Own," which opened on Wednesday, had all those elements. And yet, judging from the early reviews, it has avoided joining Hollywood's pantheon of debacles. Even Weekly Variety said that the movie, "a well-crafted suspenser, bears no signs of the much-reported on-set difficulties." The film tells the story of a New York City police officer (Mr. Ford) who takes into his family's home a young man (Mr. Pitt) who turns out to be a fugitive Irish Republican Army soldier.

Hollywood has a long tradition of being able to redeem the most troubled shoots with good, and occasionally great, movies. "Casablanca" and "The Godfather" are two prominent examples.

Still, Mr. Pakula does not seem eager to repeat the experience of "The Devil's Own."

"I can't imagine what it would have been like if it had been my first film," he said in his Manhattan office, recounting the stream of negative stories that appeared last year in both the Hollywood trade papers and the mainstream press during the shoot's six long months.

•

All the same, for Mr. Pakula, the generally positive reviews offer some vindication, suggesting that perhaps things were not as bad as they seemed. He was quick to point out that other films he had made had not exactly gone smoothly either: Jane Fonda tried to quit his second movie, the 1971 film "Klute," and in "All the President's Men" (1976), Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman would often, separately, call their real-life reporter counterparts, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, to decide how a certain scene should be played.

"There's rewriting, and there's rewriting," said Mr. Pakula, who will be 69 next month and who, with his white beard and conservative blazers, looks and speaks like an English professor who happens to have a connection to Hollywood. "There's rewriting when you start to make one kind of movie and then everybody panics, or the studio panics and you wind up making another. That was never the case here. How to tell the story might have changed; individual plot things might have changed. It was always telling the same story."

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The ripest bit of gossip from the set — personal animosity between the stars over whether this would be a Brad Pitt film or a Harrison Ford film — was not true, Mr. Pakula said, despite many press reports that the two actors were not on speaking terms for months.

In recent interviews, both Mr. Pitt, who at 33 has become a big box-office draw, and Mr. Ford, at 54 an aging star who is nonetheless at the top of his game, said there had been no personal conflicts between them. ("It wasn't the clash of the titans the press made it out to be," said a crew member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "After all, you were dealing with two guys who probably wouldn't have had much in common under ordinary circumstances.")

No one griped about the size of trailers or the number of close-ups, Mr. Pakula said; rather, the conflicts were artistic. Because Mr. Pitt and Mr. Ford are both stars, the original script had to be rewritten to create a more complicated relationship between the two men, and specifically to create a fuller role for Mr. Ford's character, a good-hearted Irish-American street sergeant named Tom O'Meara.

Mr. Pakula said there was also a secondary problem, derived from the fact that the film's plot did not fall along conventionally simple Hollywood lines. The characters played by Mr. Ford and Mr. Pitt are both "good guys" according to their own distinct moral codes: Mr. Ford as the upright American cop who deplores violence and Mr. Pitt as an I.R.A. gunman for whom violence is a reasonable solution to his people's 300 years of troubles.

But the story requires a conflict between the two men, and one of them has to die, even though there are few film stars in leading roles who relish being rubbed out.

"In American film there is a good guy and a bad guy," Mr. Pakula said. "It's the first thing my grandson always asks: Who's the good guy and who's the bad guy? When I say Harrison Ford and Brad Pitt are both good guys, that throws him."

"What's interesting to me is what happens when people with two different senses of what is right and what is wrong meet," he added. "What's interesting is the fact that these two men can love and respect each other. It makes it more complicated. Much more interesting and much more human."

But Mr. Pitt worried that his role might devolve into that of a traditional bad guy pursued by Mr. Ford, à la "The Fugitive." Mr. Pakula said this was never his intention. To find an analogy, he went back to the 1948 western "Red River," in which a weathered rancher, John Wayne, is defied by his young protégé, Montgomery Clift, on an epic cattle drive from Texas to Missouri.

In "Red River," all turns out well when the tart-talking woman (Joanne Dru) separating the men reminds them that they really love each other. "The whole picture was leading up to something very different," Mr. Pakula said. But the studio executives "just felt it was too unconventional, too dangerous, to have one great star kill another star."

The final showdown of "The Devil's Own" was a central part of the original script by Kevin Jarre, who wrote "Tombstone" and "Glory." About five years ago, the producer Lawrence Gordon, whose earlier projects include "Field of Dreams," "48 Hours" and "Waterworld," the Kevin Costner film memorable largely for having been wildly over budget, took the script to Brad Pitt, who was not yet a household name.

Ken Regan/Columbia/Tri-Star

Harrison Ford, left, plays a police officer and Brad Pitt an I.R.A. gunman in "The Devil's Own" — From the troubles in Ireland to trouble on the set.

THE PROJECT LANguished until 1995, when Mr. Pitt suggested taking the script to Mr. Ford. To many people's surprise, Mr. Ford accepted, even though O'Meara was originally conceived more as a character role, an emotional backstop to Mr. Pitt. Mr. Ford suggested Mr. Pakula — the two had worked together in "Presumed Innocent" in 1990 — and filming started last February, in the midst of an unusually harsh winter in New York.

Trouble began immediately, because the script was still in flux. This is what prompted Mr. Pitt's comment to Newsweek about how "irresponsible" it was to be going ahead with the movie at that point.

The comment was considered a major blow to the picture's potential for success. But no one has really disagreed with him.

"We were all a bit unhinged by the failure to come up with more of a script," Mr. Ford said in a recent telephone interview. "So I didn't have any dispute with him over the accuracy of the comments."

Mr. Ford acknowledged, however, that the comments put a certain spin on the publicity: "At least you know what the first few questions will be," he said. And while he said he was satisfied by the final product, he did not give it an unqualified endorsement. "I make them; you decide if you like them," he said. "I'm pleased with a great deal of work in this film, but I'm not ever really, really happy. I'm a perfectionist, I suppose. So I am denied the pleasure."

At a recent press conference for the movie, Mr. Pitt made it clear that he had made his comments at the very outset of the filming, long before any part of the production was finished. "I have to be honest about what I said, even though it didn't do anyone any good," he said. He added, "How can we start a film when we don't have it all lined up?"

Several script doctors were brought in to address the problems, which delayed the picture, pushed up the budget and only added to tensions on the set. Mr. Gordon, the producer, would not say what the film finally cost, but he disputed numbers widely reported in Hollywood trade papers. He said the original budget was "much higher" than the reported $50 million and that the final cost was lower than $90 million. "I won't say much lower but lower."

"There is no secret that we were writing and shooting" at the same time, Mr. Gordon said. "That's a very unpleasant approach to film making. You just slog through it. It's like being in the infantry and fighting in the rain and snow."

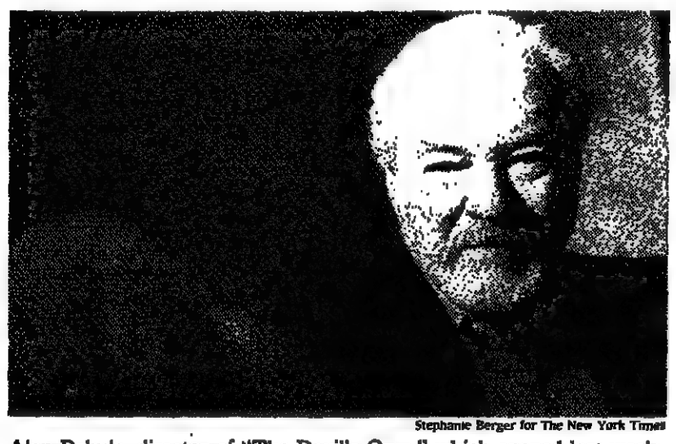
He added, however, that things could have been much worse. "I'm coming off 'Waterworld,'" he said. "For me, you know, it was not that tough."

•

Still not finished two months before it opened, "The Devil's Own" required unusual last-minute tweaking. Mr. Pakula had been unhappy with the final scene, a showdown on a boat with a cargo of Stinger missiles that Mr. Pitt's character is trying to sail back to Ireland. According to the director, the original scene, shot in Greenport, L.I., felt truncated, so it was rewritten and reshot over two days in a studio in California early last month.

The aim was largely to complete the relationship between the two men, which again reinforced the idea, Mr. Pakula said, that "these two men still respect and care about each other and recognize that they are basically two good men." Mr. Pakula added a line of dialogue for Mr. Pitt, echoing a line from earlier in the film, to explain his path of destruction in New York: "It's not an American story. It's an Irish one."

"That is what the film was," the director said. "Sometimes it takes longer to get there, and sometimes you get there in a shorter time." □



Stephanie Berger for The New York Times

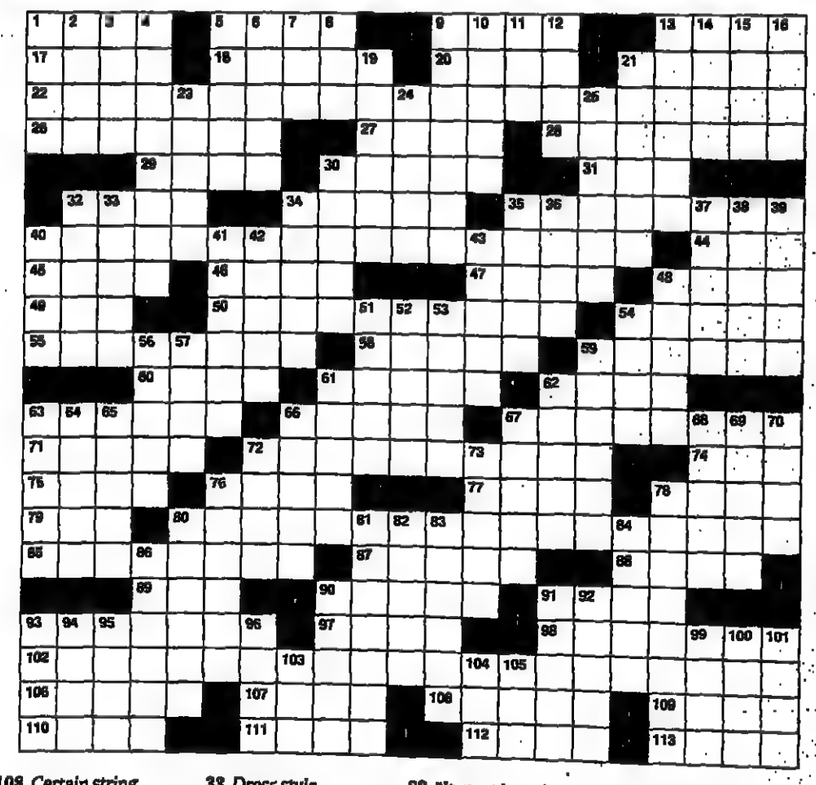
Alan Pakula, director of "The Devil's Own," which opened last week.

Ken Regan/Camera 5

Alan Pakula, left, with Harrison Ford, center, and Brad Pitt on the New York set of "The Devil's Own."

PARADOX

BY ELIZABETH C. GORSKI / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ



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94 Computer programming phrase
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101 Timetable listings: Abbr.
103 Rhoda's TV mom
104 Head, in slang
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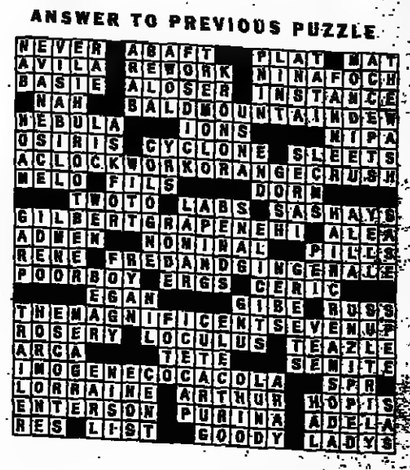
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



هكذا من الأصل

Beyond hatred

How do you prosecute tens of thousands of murderers, among them, eight-year-old children? That is one challenge facing Rwanda's deputy justice minister, who was in Israel recently to learn how to rebuild a society after genocide, Judith Sudilovsky reports

Gerald Gahima has an impossible job. After decades of living in exile in refugee camps, Gahima is now in charge of prosecuting the murderers of an estimated million people, among them, members of his own family.

Gahima, 41, is the deputy justice minister of Rwanda. He was in Israel recently to meet with members of the Simon Wiesenthal Center to learn how to bring war criminals to justice, rehabilitate survivors and commemorate a genocide. The meetings are to be included in a BBC documentary on historical traumas and the pursuit of justice. The documentary links the attempt to bring about justice in Rwanda to Israel's continual hunt for Nazi war criminals.

"It is very difficult to take a purely professional attitude," said Gahima. "So what we do is remind ourselves that what these people did is so bad that something must be done and we are doing something positive by bringing them to justice. But it is not easy. If anyone says they can deal with genocide and be removed from it, they are not giving you an honest answer."

In three months in the spring of 1994, as many as one million people, according to some estimates, were slaughtered in Rwanda as years of animosity between the Tutsi and Hutu tribes was unleashed across the country. Whole villages participated in the genocide against the Tutsi; husbands killed wives and parents killed children.

Thousands more civilians, mostly Hutu, were later killed in a civil war, as the minority Tutsi fought for control.

For Gahima, it is not only important to see what legal actions have been taken against the Nazis over the years – the fact that relatively few Nazi leaders have been brought to trial gives him little hope of trying the top leaders of the Rwandan massacre.

But there are other things he hopes to learn from Israel.

"One thing which was helpful for me was seeing how the whole notion of remembrance is treated [in Israel]; how for a society which has been through an period like the Holocaust it is important to keep alive the memory of what happened as a deterrent to similar occurrences in the future," said Gahima.

"It is very important that what happened be known and be remembered if we are to prevent it from happening again," he added.

Rwandan Deputy Justice Minister Gerald Gahima: If anyone says he can deal with genocide and not be removed from it, he is not giving you an honest answer. (Sarit Uziely)

"Reconciliation will be a long process but we can't have mutual harmony just by forgetting what happened.

"In trying to reconcile, we must first be able to admit what happened. We can't ask people to forgive your crimes if you can't admit to your crimes."

In contrast to the Jews after the Holocaust who were able to find a haven in their own country far away from their tormentors, the Rwandan victims and their murderers are now living in the same land and must face each other every day, noted Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Israel. Zuroff met with Gahima here and also went to Rwanda in 1995 for a meeting of experts dealing with the aftermath of genocides. They must come to terms with their recent bloody history and learn how to go on from there, he said.

"It was a planned genocide and in that respect it was similar to the Holocaust, but it was a genocide which could have been stopped. It was a low-tech genocide. Hundreds of people were killed who should not have been killed," said Zuroff. Unlike the Nazis who built elaborate death factories, the slaughter in Rwanda was done with simple instruments like knives and hatchets, Zuroff said, and could have easily been halted had the UN not withdrawn its troops.

Gahima acknowledges that his is a "very difficult" job.

"On the one hand we have to manage a society emerging from indescribable violence which is still very deeply traumatized, and on the other hand we have to try to stabilize our country and bring things back to normal," he said. "We can't bring about stability until we have confronted the issue of justice and accountability and people who are responsible for the crimes are punished."

Gahima notes that so many people took part in the massacres that realistically they can't all be brought to justice.

He estimates some two million people committed atrocities in those three months. "Our policy has to be punishment of at least some of the people. If there is no punishment then it will be like the past when they killed and got away with it," he said.

The 1994 murders, said Gahima, were just the last in a long line of violence between the two groups – which he describes as more like social classes than tribes – dating back over 30 years.

Some 90,000 people are in Rwandan prisons, but just as with the Nazis, the top leaders fled abroad, so those going on trial in Rwanda are mainly the mid-level leadership, said Gahima.

Although there is an international UN tribunal charged with trying the men who escaped, Gahima is not very optimistic about justice being served; he has but to look at the reality of the Nazis who have managed to evade capture for over 50 years, he said.

Indeed, the BBC recently aired a report criticizing the UN international tribunal for inefficiency in trying Rwandan perpetrators of genocide.

The many faces of genocide: A delegate from a women's conference views a genocide memorial in Kigali, Rwanda. (Reuter)

"There are still Nazis all over the world who have not been brought to justice," said Gahima. "There should be no illusions that we will be able to bring these people [in Rwanda] to justice in a short time."

In the meantime, Gahima has instigated a national confession program whereby if a person confesses to his crimes he will be given a shorter prison sentence.

Children as young as eight are in prison for murder, he said, but up to the age of 14 they will not be punished with incarceration but will be turned over to the social-welfare system which will try to reintegrate them into society, said Gahima.

Still, he said, the hatred which was infused into the psyche of these people will remain for countless years to come. "There is very little you can do to change the values of a society overnight," he said.

"They will still have that hatred, but hopefully there will not be a government that will capitalize on such hatred and exploit it."

EARTHLY CONCERNS

The slaughter of fowl is fouling up our water

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

At long last something may be done about the country's salt problem, in particular the excessive use of salt at slaughter facilities, which is all in the name of keeping the food kosher.

With its increasing population, Israel suffers from a chronic water shortage. And the problem is being exacerbated by intensified agricultural and industrial demand for water. One of the most efficient means of saving limited fresh water supplies is to use reclaimed sewage water for agricultural and industrial purposes. But there is a snag. Many of the effluents that should be reclaimed and recycled for this purpose are too salty to use, even after basic purification.

The reason for this is that Israel uses between two and three times as much ordinary salt (sodium chloride) per capita as other industrialized nations. This is because extremely large amounts of salt are used to kasher meat products – all meat and fowl slaughtered in Israel undergo this process, whereas the bulk of our beef is imported. Each year Israel processes approximately 170,000 tons of turkey and chicken (plus a few ducks and geese) and uses about 280 grams of salt per kilogram of fowl for kashering.

This, experts at the Ministry of the Environment say, is excessive. In the United States, where even local rules for kashrut are used, the amount of salt is only 90-95 grams per kilogram of fowl. The reason for this difference, says the ministry, is a lack of education of the workers and their supervisors, and a lack of proper equipment in the slaughterhouses.

One of the major problems is that the slaughtered fowl are treated while wet and since the process of kashering demands that a layer of visible salt coat the carcass, two-thirds of the applied salt runs off as salty water before the salt begins to stick and coat the animal. In the US the freshly slaughtered fowl are first dried off with air blowers and then salted.

There is no halachic ban on this practice; the slaughterhouses simply lack the equipment to do this.

Another factor concerns the amount of salt that remains inside the slaughterhouse and the amount that is sluiced into the sewerage channels when the fowl is washed with clean water. By transporting the fowl belly down over a tray most of the loose salt can be shaken off before the sluicing. Here again, the primary need is for proper equipment. But the amount of salt that remains in internal vats can be recycled to make sodium hydroxide (NaOH), known as caustic soda, for industrial use.

The slaughterhouses need help in obtaining the equipment and the technology to make this conversion which provides additional income.

But, happily, it seems that the facilities have actually applied themselves and that the amount of salt sent out into the environment is, today, less than 10 percent of what was emitted in the past.

By a carefully instituted system of government-funded grants the ministry says that it can solve this problem within two years and thereby release tens of thousands of previously unusable sewage water for use in agriculture and industry. And it can do this without any conflict with the rabbinical authorities who supervise kashrut.

PM

Continued from Page 1

rity apparatus to provoke the Arab community into a violent response," said Initawi.

Ramallah and Bethlehem were the centers of protest in the territories, as hundreds of Palestinians clashed with soldiers at the Arak junction south of Ramallah and the area surrounding Rachel's Tomb outside Bethlehem.

A serious confrontation was averted in Nablus, when a mob said to number some 3,000 moved toward a heavily reinforced Joseph's Tomb. With paratroopers surrounding the city and tanks prepared to move in if necessary, lines of Palestinian policemen locked arms to block their way. They turned back only when officers fired into the air.

Rachel's Tomb was littered with stones, iron bars, and garbage, and roads leading to it were blocked with makeshift barricades. Throughout the day, soldiers and police dodged stones and fired rubber bullets and tear gas.

By afternoon, it had become a spectator sport, with residents watching the cat-and-mouse confrontations from easy chairs on their terraces. One man pulled out his car seats and placed them on a stone wall to get a better, more comfortable view of the riots.

"I have to say that, in most places, the Palestinian Police made great efforts to deal with the incidents," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said. "There are places were did more, places where they did less, and places where they didn't do at all."

Unofficial Palestinian figures put the number of wounded around the West Bank at about 50, mostly from rubber bullets and tear gas, with one man seriously wounded by a live bullet in Silat al-Harithiye near Jenin.

In Gaza, attempts by youths to attack Netzarim and Kfar Darom with stones were broken up in minutes by Palestinian policemen firing in the air, in coordination with the IDF. There was a peaceful march in Gaza City led by PA officials arm in arm with Hamas notables.

"This is a clear message to Israel that the Palestinian people are united against Israel's policy on settlements and Judaizing Jerusalem," Hamas spokesman Mahmoud Zahar told reporters.

The death of a student in a riot at the south Ramallah checkpoint on Saturday was also thought likely to raise the temperatures of the protests. Abdullah Salah was buried yesterday morning after his family postponed the funeral suddenly Saturday night, when thousands were already by the graveside, a mourner said.

Scattered incidents took place in and around Jerusalem, with reports of minor injuries and damage. In Shuafat, a border policeman was slightly wounded in the leg, when dozens of rioters threw stones and bottles at Jewish drivers and security forces. Three youths were wounded by rubber bullets fired by a Border Police patrol while dispersing the rioters and one stonethrower was arrested.

Hillel Kuttler, David Rudge, Jon Immanuel, Arieh O'Sullivan, and Elli Wohlgelernter contributed to this report.

UPROAR

Continued from Page 1

"The prime minister is shocked by the matter of the Ethiopian soldier," a statement issued by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman said. "The prime minister has asked that the matter be carefully examined again."

Burg expressed shock and disgust over Valitzkin's behavior, telling a meeting of the agency's executive yesterday the officer's "perverse behavior stains us all horribly."

CONVERSION

Continued from Page 1

has given the attorney-general until April 30 to reply to a petition to recognize a number of Conservative conversions of adopted children. The Knesset goes into recess at the end of this week and will not reconvene until May.

Lubotzky has met with coalition leaders to present his proposal that all converts be registered as Jews on their identity cards, while the Interior Ministry's Population Registry would record the type of conversion. However, the religious parties refused to postpone the vote.

The Third Way decided to vote against the bill if it comes up today.

The Conservative and Reform movements are to hold a demonstration and prayer meeting opposite the Knesset this afternoon in opposition to the passage of the bill.

Watch ESRAVISION - TODAY, 10 a.m., 4 p.m., 9 p.m.
ARUTZEI ZAHAV (Sharon area) Community TV, Channel 45.

Post book department

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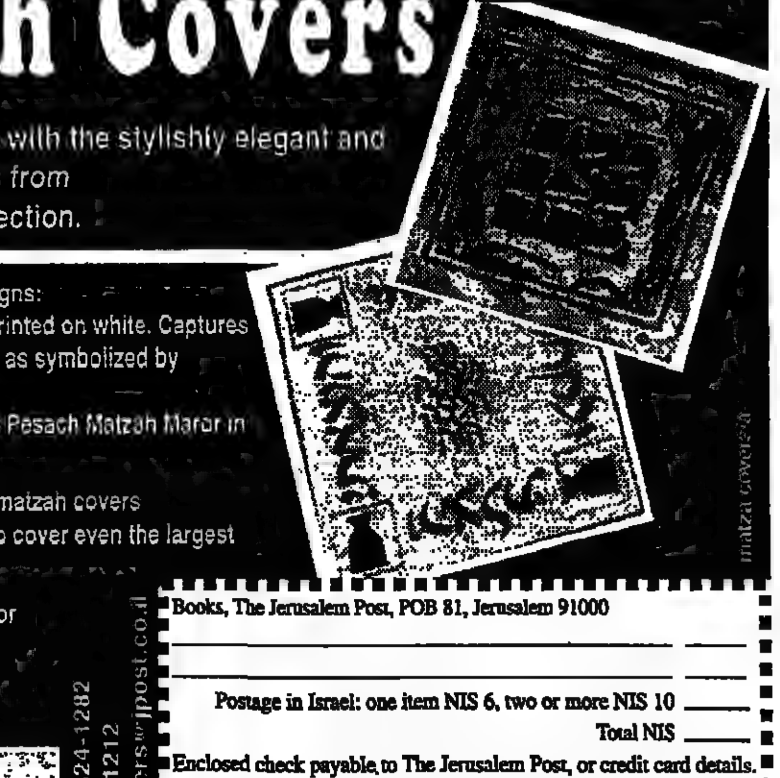

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BUSINESS in brief

Kibbutz industry exports stagnate

Kibbutz industrial exports were stagnant last year in real terms, despite a 3.5 percent increase in dollar terms, Kibbutz Industries Association chairman Micha Hertz announced yesterday.

Total exports reached $1.1 billion, with the strongest performances in the plastic and rubber sectors, which together brought in some $500 million. The Bank of Israel's tight monetary policy is the main cause, according to Hertz.

The forecast for this year is also bleak, said Hertz. With no change in the exchange rate and the domestic recession, the situation will not improve for association members. *David Harris*

Sharansky to leave today for South Korea, Japan

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is scheduled to leave today for a working visit to South Korea and Japan. He is being accompanied by 22 businessmen and industrialists. Growth in trade with South Korea is about $100 million annually.

According to Foreign and Industry and Trade ministry sources, it is potentially Israel's most important new trading partner.

In South Korea, Sharansky will meet his opposite number in Seoul, as well as the head of the Korean manufacturers association and other key decision makers. In Japan, Sharansky will meet the Industry and Foreign Trade minister. *David Harris*

Brodet: '97 growth to be lower than 3%

Slavin replaces Brodet as Treasury director-general tomorrow

By DAVID HARRIS

Gross domestic product growth this year will fail to reach three percent, judging by the economic slowdown which is well under way, outgoing Finance Ministry director general David Brodet told *The Jerusalem Post* in his last interview before leaving the Treasury.

New director general Shmuel Slavin, who takes up the post tomorrow, will face an uphill battle to put the economy back on track, Brodet said.

Slavin's first major decision will be whether to make an additional cut in the 1997 budget, given the shortfall in revenues in the first three months.

The Treasury will announce tomorrow the March budgetary deficit, which according to Brodet will be some 0.5% higher in annual terms than the government's self-imposed target of 2.8% of the gross domestic product.

Brodet said this would warrant a cut of several hundred million shekels, but not before the Bank of Israel makes a significant reduction in interest rates.

In the long-term, Brodet said Israel can restore a high growth rate, not of the 6%-7% of the early 1990s, but maybe up to 5%.

"This isn't out of our reach," said Brodet, who still has to decide his future. "This year I hope we will get close to 3%-4%.

But if things change in the financial and capital markets and in the foreign exchange rates, then perhaps we can achieve growth in 1998. This can only happen with a change in policy."

The responsibility for this change, according to Brodet, lies mainly with the central bank and its "over-simplification" of monetary policy by making the lowering of inflation its sole aim.

The other major instrument for achieving economic success is the implementation of various structural changes – including liberalization, demonopolization, deregulation, privatization and the reform of the capital markets.

All these will provide a base for increased competition, which Brodet argued will naturally bring inflation down.

While attacking the Bank of Israel, Brodet said it must retain its independence. He said a board of governors must be created to secure this independence, while ensuring that authority is not vested in the governor alone.

This board would comprise senior economists, while forbidding political appointments or Treasury representation.

"The problem at the moment is that the Bank of Israel is taking control of [economic] policy, and that is the role of the Treasury."

Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Slavin will make their decision about an extra cut in the budget before the end of next week, although it is more likely to occur this week.

Their recommendation will then be passed to the government for approval.

This will be preceded by a wide-ranging cabinet debate on the macroeconomic performance.

The final government decision will be taken before Pessah, according to Brodet.

UMB net income up 17% last year

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

United Mizrahi Bank's net income rose 17.3 percent last year to NIS 112.3m. from NIS 95.7m. in 1995, the country's fourth largest bank, reported yesterday.

Return on equity went up to 6.7% last year from 6% in 1995. The bank's capital totalled NIS 173.1m. last year.

Restructuring expenses resulted in a 1.4% reduction in return on equity, the bank said.

Mizrahi cited several factors which influenced its results, including the sale of its New York subsidiary and subsequent compensation and pension expenditures to the tune of NIS 44m.

In addition, the director-general of the bank, Victor Medina, cited a 7.6% growth in financing activities before the allocation for bad debts, a 48.2% drop in allocation for bad debts and a 2.8% decrease in operational income.

While discussing the results during a press conference, Medina said the bank had resolved the crisis between workers and management, which had made headlines last August.

He added that the tensions were the natural result of the bank's privatization process.

Meanwhile, the bank also reported yesterday that it has signed a syndicate agreement with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Securities and Bank Sumitomo.

According to the agreement, Deutsche Morgan and Sumitomo will lend UMB $50m. for five years at an annual interest rate of 0.3% above the LIBOR.

The loan is the cheapest one offered to an Israeli borrower through a lending consortium to date, the bank said.

COMPANY RESULTS

Discount Investment net down 14%

Discount Investment Corporation reported a 14% drop in annual net income to NIS 138 million from NIS 160m. in 1995, the company reported yesterday.

Aggregate revenues for the year went up to $3.3 billion from $3.1b. Of this, overseas revenue increased to $2.3b. from $2.2b.

Fourth-quarter net income fell 33% to NIS 28m. from NIS 42m.

Discount Investments, a subsidiary of the IDB Holding Group, said its profits suffered as a result of the performance by companies in its electronics and communications sectors. The company attributed the drop in net income for the quarter and the year to losses sustained by Cellcom and Scitex.

Udi Recanati will replace Raphael Recanati today as chairman of the company's board of directors. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Minrav Holdings profit up 58%

Minrav Holdings reported a 58% increase in annual net income to NIS 18.3m. from NIS 11.6m. in 1995. The company's revenues increased 49.4% to NIS 250.8m. from NIS 167.8m.

Return on equity went up to 33.1% from 26.4%.

The company's stock portfolio totalled NIS 44.8m., in addition to a cash balance of NIS 29.3m.

Through its holdings, Minrav operates in the housing and industrial sectors. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Israel Corp. buys additional 17% stake in ICL for NIS 667m.

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Israel Corp., owned by the Eisenberg Group, yesterday exercised its right to purchase from the state an additional 17 percent of shares in Israel Chemicals Ltd.

The NIS 667 million deal takes Israel Corp.'s holding in ICL up to 41.9%. The company was offered the option to raise its stake in ICL following its initial purchase of shares in 1995.

The deal was signed by Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni, Accountant General Shai Talmon, and for the company, Yigal Diament and Amos Mar-Haim.

As part of the agreement, the company would be given the first option to buy the shares once the authority decided to go ahead with a flotation.

The agreement between the government and the Eisenberg Group stipulated that the company would purchase the shares based on their average price in the 90 days preceding the offer. This brought the total sale to NIS 666,921,333.

Welcoming the sale, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu hailed it as "another successful step in the privatization process and an additional measure in the implementation of the government's flagship policy of selling shares and state holdings to private companies.

The signing ceremony at the Finance Ministry came only days after the death of Israel Corp. chairman Shoul Eisenberg. But the sale had to be completed by yesterday because it was the last day Israel Corp. could exercise its option.

Following the deal the Israel Corp. holds 41.9% of ICL, with the government maintaining a 31.5% interest – 2.5% currently entrusted for employees, and the remainder publically floated.

The Government Companies Authority will now begin considering how to sell the state's remaining shares.

The ICI's workforce was hoping Israel Corp. would not exercise its option to purchase. This would have enabled the workers to buy the shares and with it seats on the board and what they saw as a guarantee of workers' rights.

Answering these general fears, Livni recently told the Knesset Finance Committee that work conditions are unlikely to change much because the Eisenberg Group has effectively been running the company since acquiring the controlling shares.

ICL accounts for some 4% of Israel's total production and 6%-7% of industrial production.

The sale values the entire company at NIS 3.9 billion, compared to the NIS 2.8b. last February, when Israel Corp. completed its initial purchase.

Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M.
and subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1996
Adjusted for the effect of inflation on the basis of the index of December 1996
(NIS thousands)

ASSETS	31 December 1996	1995
Cash and deposits with banks	17,684,822	18,088,502
Securities	27,430,051	23,790,586
Credit to the public	79,984,417	73,309,949
Credit to government	3,858,471	5,216,299
Investments in companies included on equity basis	933,997	876,929
Buildings and equipment	1,821,441	1,809,438
Other assets	1,670,583	1,510,106
Total assets	133,363,782	124,601,809

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY CAPITAL	31 December 1996	1995
Deposits of the public	107,376,691	97,561,399
Deposits from banks	2,901,287	4,787,384
Deposits from governments	8,273,032	7,778,281
Debentures and bonds	4,224,577	5,357,767
Other liabilities	2,911,768	1,727,653
Total liabilities	125,687,355	117,212,484
Minority interests	367,561	446,696
Shareholders' equity	7,308,866	6,942,629
Total liabilities and equity capital	133,363,782	124,601,809

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Shareholders' Equity for the Year Ended 31 December 1996
Adjusted for the effect of inflation on the basis of the index of December 1996
(NIS thousands)

	Capital and capital reserves	Retained earnings(B)	Total shareholders' equity
Balance as at 1 January 1994	5,617,956	714,805	6,332,761
Net profit for the year	—	396,136	396,136
Changes during the year arising from the Bank - Dividend proposed	—	(118,348)	(118,348)
Adjustment of the dividend proposed in the preceding year	—	4,076	4,076
Changes during the year arising from subsidiaries - Translation adjustments(A)	—	(47,486)	(47,486)
Balance as at 31 December 1994	5,617,956	949,183	6,567,139
Net profit for the year	—	453,479	453,479
Changes during the year arising from the Bank - Interim dividend paid, proposed as final	—	(80,503)	(80,503)
Adjustment of the dividend proposed in the preceding year	—	2,514	2,514
Balance as at 31 December 1995	5,617,956	1,324,673	6,942,629
Net profit for the year	—	564,230	564,230
Changes during the year arising from the Bank - Dividend proposed	—	(197,993)	(197,993)
Balance as at 31 December 1996	5,617,956	1,690,910(c)	7,308,866

(A) The adjustments from translation of the financial statements of consolidated foreign subsidiaries include adjustments in respect of the sources of the financing of the investments in such subsidiaries, net of the allocated tax.
(B) The retained earnings for 31 December 1996, 1995 and 1994 include adjustments from translation of the financial statements of foreign subsidiaries, which were classified as autonomous, amounting to NIS (306,812) thousand.
(c) Including retained earnings of NIS 1,285,292 thousand (31 December 1995 - NIS 1,023,287 thousand) which may be distributed as a dividend.

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Profit and Loss For the Year Ended 31 December 1996
Adjusted for the effect of inflation on the basis of the index of December 1996
(NIS thousands)

For the year ended 31 December	1996	1995	1994
Net interest income before provision for doubtful debts	3,323,425	3,217,309(*)	2,738,607(*)
Provision for doubtful debts	610,506	959,017	553,137
Net interest income after provision for doubtful debts	2,712,919	2,258,292	2,185,470
Operating and other income	2,084,051	2,119,554(*)	2,182,352(*)
Operating and other expenses	3,810,917	3,582,687	3,575,861
Operating profit before taxes	986,053	795,179	791,961
Provision for taxes on operating profit	542,051	352,988	422,447
Operating profit after taxes	444,002	442,191	369,514
Equity in after-tax operating profit of companies included on the equity basis	68,430	85,484	12,605
Minority interest	5,229	(64,227)	(45,175)
Net operating profit	517,661	463,448	336,944
Net after-tax profit (loss) from extraordinary items	46,569	(9,969)	59,192
Net profit	564,230	453,479	396,136

Profit per NIS 1 par value of share capital (NIS)			
Net operating profit	0.366	0.328	0.238
Net after-tax profit (loss) from extraordinary items	0.033	(0.007)	0.042
Total	0.399	0.321	0.280

NIS thousands			
Weighted average par value of share capital used in the above computation	1,414,233	1,414,233	1,414,233

(*) Reclassified.

Eitan Raff, Chairman of the Board of Directors
Itzhak Hoffi, Director
Moshe Schnitzer, Director
Galia Maor, President & Chief Executive Officer

The complete financial statements are available for inspection at all Branches of the Bank and a copy will be provided upon request. The representative exchange rate against the dollar on 31 December 1996, according to which the financial statements have been prepared, was NIS 3.251.

31 March 1997

bank leumi בנק לאומי

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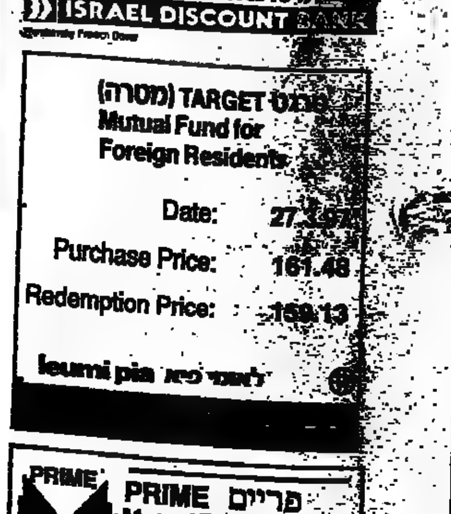

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(מטרה) TARGET
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 27.3.97
Purchase Price: 161.48
Redemption Price: 159.13
leumi pia לאומי פיא

PRIME פריים
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 27.3.97
Purchase Price: 114.17
Redemption Price: 112.68
leumi pia לאומי פיא

Monday, March 31, 1997

UMB net income up 17% last year

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

United Mizrahi Bank's net income rose 17.3 percent last year to NIS 112.3m. from NIS 95.7m. in 1995, the country's fourth largest bank reported yesterday. Return on equity went up to 7% last year from 6% in 1995. The bank's capital totalled NIS 73.1m. last year.

Restructuring expenses resulted in a 1.4% reduction in return on equity, the bank said.

Mizrahi cited several factors which influenced its results, including the sale of its New York subsidiary and subsequent compensation and pension expenditures to the tune of NIS 44m.

In addition, the director-general of the bank, Victor Medina, cited 1.6% growth in financing activities before the allocation for bad debts, a 48.2% drop in allocations for bad debts and a 2.8% decrease in operational income.

While discussing the results during a press conference, Medina said the bank had resolved the crisis between workers and management, which had made headlines last August.

He added that the tensions were the natural result of the bank's privatization process.

Meanwhile, the bank also reported yesterday that it has signed a syndicate agreement with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Securities and Bank Sumitomo.

According to the agreement, Deutsche Morgan and Sumitomo will lend UMB $50m. for five years at an annual interest rate of 0.3% above the LIBOR.

The loan is the cheapest ever offered to an Israeli borrower through a lending consortium to date, the bank said.

Key Representative Rates	
US Dollar	NIS 3.3610
Sterling	NIS 5.4863
Mark	NIS 2.0007

Grain futures up on strong export sales

By MICHAEL ZWEBNER

Grain and soy complex futures ended Thursday's session with solid gains following the release of the weekly exports sales report.

Soybean futures finished strongly higher, rallying on a supportive export sales report and spillover momentum from soymeal.

This trend was consistent throughout the day, as bullish enthusiasm withstood mild position squaring setbacks to end at solidly higher levels.

The May contract settled 14 cents higher at $8.55. The day's high was $8.60 and the low was $8.49.

Soyoil futures finished to the upside, following the positive tone flowing through the complex, with commercial buying also applying strength.

The May contract ended 17 *points higher* at 24.42 and traded between a daytime range of 24.52 and 24.26.

Soymeal futures finished sharply higher, surging from the outset on an extremely supportive weekly export figure, as well as commercial and technically inspired buying.

In fact the July future roared to a new contract high of $281.50 early in the session.

The May contract settled *$6.00* higher at $282.70 and traded within a day session range of between $284.00 and $280.00.

Corn futures ended modestly higher, bolstered throughout the day by spillover strength from soybeans and wheat.

This trend was evident from the beginning as a lower than expected weekly sales figure, combined with a lack of any type of fresh news, kept the market mirroring movements in other pits and outbursts.

The May contract settled three cents higher at $3.08 1/4 and traded between a daytime range of $3.08 3/4 and $3.06 1/4.

CommStock Trading Ltd.

Krupp admits failure to take over Thyssen

By DOUGLAS BUSVINE

ESSEN, Germany (Reuter) – Krupp AG chief executive Gerhard Cromme on Friday conceded that the German engineering firm had not achieved its original goal to take over rival Thyssen AG but said the merger solution had solved problems in the steel industry.

"The original goal was not achieved but it still resolved the steel problem in the shortest possible time," Cromme told a news conference.

Cromme also said the restructuring costs required to build the new steel business with Thyssen would not be borne by the two parent companies, but by the merged steel company itself.

"The synergies in the next few years should cover restructuring costs," Cromme said.

"We expect that this will take place over the next three to four years."

He also said both Krupp and Thyssen could be happy with their decision to merge their steel activities, which was approved on Thursday by Thyssen's supervisory board.

"The result of the negotiations... was attractive enough so we could not turn it down," he said.

Despite the failure of Krupp's original hostile takeover bid for Thyssen, Cromme also said the Fried. Krupp AG Hoesch-Krupp group did not rule out takeover bids in the future.

"We will not balk in the future to return to the path we took in other cases, if we are convinced this is right," Cromme said.

Thyssen and Krupp have agreed to merge their activities as tomorrow into a venture 60% owned by Thyssen, creating Europe's largest steel firm.

On Thursday, Thyssen chief executive Dieter Vogel said the Krupp group would bear all the restructuring costs from the venture.

Thyssen Krupp Stahl will have sales of DM11 billion and output of 15 million tonnes a year.

Shipping agreement signed with China

Chinese Transport Minister Huang Zhendong (right) and Foreign Minister David Levy sign a shipping agreement between the two nations yesterday. The document calls for increased cooperation between the maritime authorities, particularly with regard to port use, payment of fees and taxes, and transshipping. (Yitzhak Elharar)

Demonstrators slam Kazakh economic policy

ALMATY (Reuter) – About 300 people staged a rare protest against Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and his government's economic policies yesterday.

The protesters, for the most part pensioners and communists, were angered by a backlog of unpaid wages and pensions and demanded restoration of the Soviet Union in the demonstration in the center of the Central Asian state's capital, Almaty.

They carried banners declaring "the president must be sacked" and "Nazarbayev, your reforms are a noose around our necks."

Traditional Soviet songs rang out of a makeshift loudspeaker and some people waved red Soviet flags.

"Nazarbayev and his government have betrayed their people and sold 90 percent of our industries to capitalism," said protester Utegen Kabaziyev, who called himself a devoted Bolshevik communist.

"Down with the bourgeoisie," he said.

An elderly woman screamed: "We had guaranteed food, clothes and work in Soviet times, but we have nothing today."

Many people are disenchanted with the government's privatization program and some have not received their wages or pensions for several months.

Leonoid Solomin, chairman of Kazakhstan's free trade unions, said the combined salary and pension arrears now totalled about 100 billion tenge ($1.3 billion).

But yesterday's protest was isolated, unsanctioned by the authorities and not supported by the trade unions.

Nazarbayev rules with a firm hand and tolerates little dissent in the former Soviet republic of almost 17 million people.

Taiwan reportedly to punish company for $3b. China deal

TAIPEI (Reuter) – Taiwan's government will check on Formosa Plastics' unauthorized $3 billion power project in China and punish the firm if necessary, Taiwan newspapers reported yesterday.

The news came as the *China Times* quoted unidentified sources as saying the group may resume a $6b. petrochemical project in China, which it suspended in 1992 under pressure from the Taiwan government.

Formosa officials were not immediately available for comment.

In mid-March, Taipei's economics ministry and related government offices urged local firms to stop making unauthorized investments in China and vowed to ferret out and punish illegal projects, despite evidence that Beijing was helping them keep a low profile.

The *Economic Daily News* yesterday quoted Finance Minister Paul Chiu as saying his ministry would check the funding sources of Formosa's latest China investment, and vowed to punish it if there had been any violations of rules.

"Formosa Plastics' fund flows and procedures will be checked," Chiu was quoted as saying.

The *China Times* quoted vice-economics minister Yin Chi-ming as saying Formosa's China power project required special government approval, failing which it would be punished.

Authorities can impose fines, repeatedly if necessary, of T$3 million to T$15m. (US$110,000-US$550,000), the paper said.

However, business leaders have urged the government to adopt a flexible and feasible China investment policy.

The United Daily News quoted Kao Chin-yen, chief executive of President Enterprises, Taiwan's top mainland investor, as saying excessively tough restrictions on Taiwanese investments in China could prompt firms to go underground. This would make it more difficult to control them, he added.

On Saturday the chairman of Formosa Plastics, Wang Yung-ching, confirmed that the group had started building a $3b. thermal power plant in China's coastal Fujian province, despite not having Taipei's approval.

"[Formosa Plastics group] has begun construction [of the China project]," Wang said on state television.

It is was the first time Formosa had confirmed rumors that the group had started construction of the project.

Previously, it had insisted that it would not go ahead with the project if the Taiwan government disagreed.

TASE ROUNDUP

Land Day sends stocks lower

Mishtanim	Maof
242.43 ▼ 0.21%	250.16 ▼ 0.29%

By JESSICA STEINBERG

Stocks were little changed yesterday as demonstrations against government policies continued on Land Day.

On the economic front, chief accountant Shai Talmon said he doesn't expect a "big" budget deficit in March. The government's expenses and income have been "relatively low" so far this year, he said.

Leading the stock market were state-controlled telecommunications company Bezeq, Israel Chemicals Ltd., and holding companies Koor Industries Ltd. and Clal Israel Ltd.

"Investors will be careful and wait to see what they hear in the news with Land Day," said Eli Nahum, co-managing director of Zannex Securities in Ramat Gan.

The Maof Index of the 25 most-traded issues fell 0.29 percent to 250.16, while the Mishtanim Index of 100 top issues fell 0.21% to 242.43.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 53 million of shares traded.

That's 45% less than the month's daily average of NIS 96.2m. and 63% off the year's daily average of NIS 141.9m. (Bloomberg)

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.65 per line, including VAT, *per month*.

JERUSALEM
Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 5882819.
HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-6416333, 02-6776271.

TEL AVIV
Museums
TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Andres Serrano: The Morgue. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: *selection of works.* Tzvi Hecker: Sunflower. Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. **HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART.** Shlomo Ben-David and Amon Ben-David, The Inverted Campaign. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

HAIFA
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Center Pharm, 20 Yad Harutzim, 673-1475; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040; Superpharm Lev Dizengoff, 50 Dizengoff, 620-0975. Till 3 a.m. Tuesday: Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London Ministore Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Eden, 95 Derech Ramatayim, Hod Hasharon, 746-4002.
Netanya: Netanya, 11 Herzl, 882-2842.
Haifa: Balfour, 1 Massada, 862-2289.
Krayot area: New Ofir, 36 Ha'atzmaut, Kiryat Ata, 844-9148.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology); Misgav Ladach (obstetrics); Bikur Holim (pediatrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE	100
FIRE	102
FIRST AID	101

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 8551333	Kfar Sava* 9902222
Ashkelon 6551332	Nahariya* 9912333
Beersheba* 6274767	Netanya* 8604444
Beit Shemesh 6523133	Petah Tikva* 9311111
Dan Region* 5793333	Rehovot* 9451333
Eilat* 6332444	Rishon* 9642333
Haifa* 8512233	Safed 6920333
Jerusalem* 6523133	Tel Aviv* 5460111
Karmiel* 9985444	Tiberias* 6792444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 696-1113), Haifa 867-2222, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789.
Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic).
Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.
Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7676).

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (27.3.97)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rates**
Currency basket	3.6221	3.6806	—	—	3.6587
U.S. dollar	3.3292	3.3829	3.27	3.43	3.3610
German mark	1.9785	2.0105	1.94	2.04	2.0007
Pound sterling	5.4242	5.5117	5.33	5.59	5.4863
French franc	0.5870	0.5965	0.57	0.61	0.5933
Japanese yen (100)	2.6907	2.7341	2.64	2.78	2.7205
Dutch florin	1.7590	1.7874	1.72	1.82	1.7782
Swiss franc	2.2820	2.3189	2.24	2.36	2.3071
Swedish krona	0.4383	0.4454	0.43	0.46	0.4437
Norwegian krone	0.5010	0.5091	0.49	0.52	0.5060
Danish krone	0.5190	0.5274	0.51	0.54	0.5246
Finnish mark	0.6672	0.6780	0.65	0.69	0.6742
Canadian dollar	2.4246	2.4638	2.38	2.50	2.4453
Australian dollar	2.6165	2.6588	2.57	2.70	2.6352
S. African rand	0.7527	0.7649	0.68	0.77	0.7601
Belgian franc (10)	0.9590	0.9745	0.94	0.99	0.9690
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8115	2.8569	2.76	2.90	2.8428
Italian lira (1000)	1.9814	2.0134	1.94	2.05	2.0030
Jordanian dinar	4.8300	4.9500	4.63	4.95	4.7894
Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0300	0.95	1.03	1.0251
ECU	3.8460	3.9081	—	—	3.8867
Irish punt	5.2417	5.3263	5.15	5.41	5.2963
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3322	2.3699	2.29	2.41	2.3578

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

MISHTANIM
LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Al Paper Mills	13648.0	1.0
Ackerstein Ind.	434.0	-2.0
Africa Hotels	488.0	-1.0
Africa Israel 0.1	22016.0	-0.7
Africa Israel 1	171596.0	-1.2
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	126.5	-0.4
Agan	7692.0	-0.5
Agis	2920.0	1.2
Al-Rov	2252.0	1.0
Azorim	4106.0	-1.3
Bank Leumi 0.1	531.0	-0.9
Baran	2357.0	-1.5
Bezeq	880.0	-2.0
Blue Square	3200.0	0.5
Bromine	1844.0	-0.8
Clal Computers	9583.0	2.5
Clal Electronics	32343.0	0.0
Clal Industries	1611.0	2.2
Clal Insurance	3032.0	-0.3
Clal Israel 1	93.0	2.8
Clal Trade	1035.0	-2.0
Cold Storage 5	7496.0	0.0
Dead Sea Works 0.1	956.0	-0.2
Delek 0.1	9706.0	0.0
Development Mort.	23473.0	-1.0
Discount 01	39.5	-0.8
Discount Bank	345.0	-0.9
Discount Inv.	23313.0	0.8
Elbit 0.003	713.0	-0.6
Elbit Imaging	1789.0	-1.5
Elbit system	2655.0	-0.7
Elco	2215.0	0.0
Electra	13157.0	-1.0
Electra App.	1811.0	0.7
Elite Ind. 5	8225.0	-1.0
Elron 0.003	4147.0	-1.0
Export Inv.	1154.0	1.8
FIBI 5	56451.0	0.0
Feuchtwanger 5	43007.0	3.7
First Int'l 1	41147.0	-9.0
First Int'l 5	221051.0	-0.5
Formula	4469.0	-2.3
General Bank	10809.0	-3.2
Hapoalim 0.1	843.0	-0.9
Harel Mishmar 5	14458.0	-0.5
I.D.B. Dev.	6570.0	1.0
I.D.B. Holdings	6519.0	1.0
ILDC	1529.0	-1.5
Ind Bldgs	472.0	0.9
Israel Chemicals	355.0	-1.7
Israel Corp. 1	22504.0	-2.0
Isramco	3.7	0.0
JEC	1289.0	0.5
Jalora	872.0	0.0
Kardan 5	1926.0	1.5
Klach Kirur	298.0	0.0
Kitan	368.0	1.7
Koor	30023.0	2.3
Koor Bond 5	134.0	0.0
Leumi Insurance	219.0	3.8
Makhteshim	1902.0	-0.5
Mailbu 5	4684.0	4.0
Maman	714.0	0.3
Maritime Bank	1443.0	0.0
Mashov	295.0	1.4
Matav	2480.0	1.3
Mehadrin	9393.0	0.0
Middle East Tube	421.0	2.7
Mishkan	46139.0	-1.0
Mivtach Shamir	1926.0	0.0
Mollet	163.5	0.9
Mul-T-Lock	902.0	0.2
Nice Systems	7148.0	6.0
Ormat Industries	385.0	1.8
Osem Industries	1834.0	0.5
Otzar Hashilton	13176.0	0.0
Packer Steel	7976.0	4.2
Periclase	1432.0	-2.0
Petrochemicals	1891.0	0.0
Phoenix Ins. 1	4181.0	-0.2
Poalim Inv.	12381.0	2.7
Polgat B 4	918.0	0.2
Prop & Bldg	24501.0	1.7
Rogosin	2167.0	2.5
Salt Industries	818.0	0.0
Secom	351.0	-1.1
Shekem	123.0	3.4
Shekem Berkan Bond 4	142.0	0.0
Supersol	985.0	0.0
TAP	409.0	-1.0
TAT 5	1536.0	0.7
Tadiran	8507.0	0.2
Tambour	698.0	0.3
Team Computers	5451.0	-0.3
Telehot	232847.0	-1.2
Teva	18756.0	-1.7
United Steel	251.0	-0.4
Urdan	302.0	3.1
Wire and Cables	1280.0	0.2
Ytong Industries	824.0	0.2

*In percentage points

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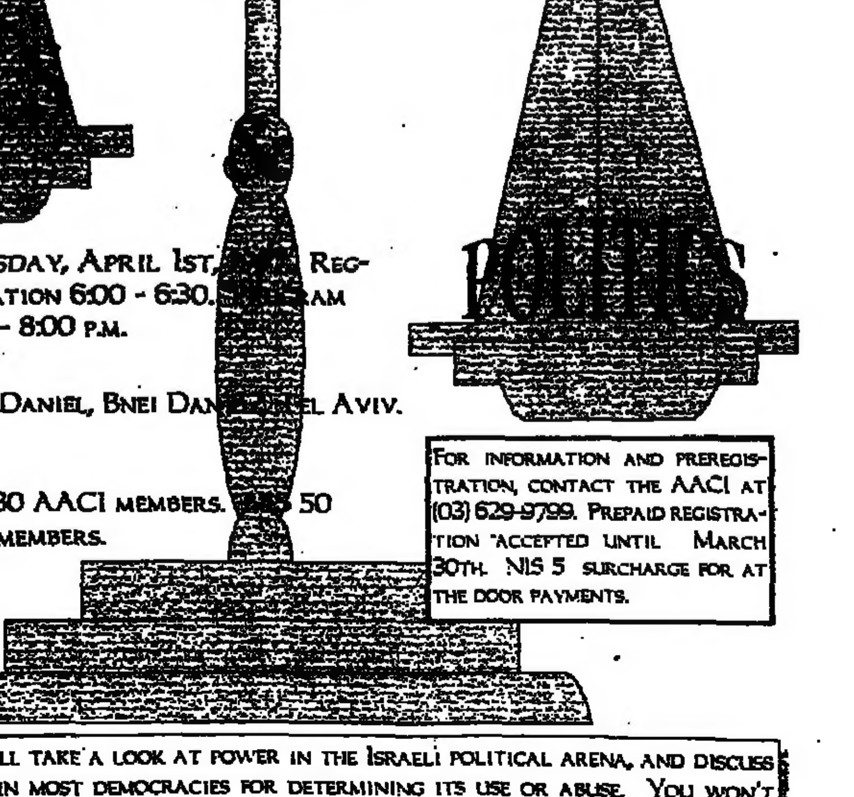

When: Tuesday, April 1st, 1997. Registration 6:00 - 6:30. Program 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
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Cost: NIS 30 AACI members. NIS 50 non-members.
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Ethics & Politics will take a look at power in the Israeli political arena, and discuss the standards used in most democracies for determining its use or abuse. You won't want to miss this most timely discussion.

Israel Under-21s batter Luxembourg 5-0

By DEREK FATTAL

Israel's Under-21 soccer side showed their elders the way forward last night meting out a true fistful to their Luxembourg counterparts with a glorious five-goal burst that left their hosts reeling.

The result leaves the Israelis with a four-point lead in the European Under-21 Championship qualifying group 5 above Russia which hit four past Cyprus with no-reply on Saturday.

Israel have accumulated 13 points from five matches, while the Russians still have a match in hand.

The Israelis were in rampant mood straight from the kick off, but could not find the back of the net until the final minute of the first half when Eli Abarbanel opened his account for the night.

In the second period, Luxembourg found the Israelis fighting for every ball with just one target in mind. Idan Tal increased Israel's lead in the 70th minute, with Abarbanel stealing in four minutes later to make it 3-0.

A Manor Hassan penalty seven minutes from time had the few hundred Luxembourg fans who turned up to see the game gravitating towards the exits.

Abarbanel added the icing to the cake, completing his hat trick and a great night for Israel with the fifth goal in the final minute of the match.

Moment of truth for Israel

By DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

Israel take on Luxembourg this evening in a virutal do-or-die soccer World Cup group 5 qualifier. Victory will leapfrog the Israelis into pole position above current group-leaders Russia, who were held to a shock 1-1 draw against Cyprus on Saturday, and will put the blue-and-whites right back on track to clinching a possible place in the 1998 finals in France.

Anything less than a win will all but end Israel's hopes at competing alongside the world's elite sides for the first time since Mexico '70.

After arriving in the Duchy on Friday, coach Shlomo Scharf's men continued their preparations for today's game over the weekend. The team members visited a local synagouge on Saturday, and their prayers were partially answered by news of the Cypriot result, which Scharf called "a near miracle."

The form book suggests that Israel should have no difficulty garnering three points against a team traditionally regarded as one of Europe's weakest, and which lies bottom of the group without a single point from its three qualifiers played to date.

Nevertheless, Luxembourg proved extremely difficult to break down when Israel notched up an unimpressive 1-0 victory on home turf back in December. Since that meeting, Israel's recent record has hardly been one to send the Duchy's 300,000 inhabitants scurrying for cover, with one draw and two defeats to show from three home friendlies against Greece, Germany and Sweden.

Israel continues to suffer from a lack of true firepower up front in the absence of Ronnen Harazi, together with a continuing tendency to make decisive errors on the edge of its penalty area when under pressure in defense. It is essential veterans Ronnie Rosenthal and Eli Ohana make their contribution felt in this particular game by finding the back of the net as a repeat of the "almost-but-not-quite" syndrome will turn the rest of the qualifying campaign into a rebuilding exercise for Israeli football.

For this match, Scharf has the luxury of being able to pick who he wants in midfield. Perhaps erring a little too much on the side of caution the coach is leaning towards retaining Ran Ben-Shimon at the back of midfield – even though he was virtually invisible in the second period against Sweden – in an effort to starve off any attacking ventures by the hosts.

If Ben-Shimon makes the starting line-up then either Izik Zohar or Tal Banin is likely to be held back on the bench, while Haim Revivo and Eyal Berkovic open in midfield.

Rafi Cohen is preferred over Golan Malul in goal, with Felix Halfon and David Amsalem taking the full back slots, and Arik Benado and Amir Shelah playing as central defenders.

Luxembourg coach Paul Philipp has a healthy respect for the Israelis, whom he stated over the weekend to be the second-best side in the group after Russia. Philipp took the trouble of travelling to Ramat Gan last month to see Israel play Germany, and is sure to have some ideas of his own as to extricating a positive outcome for his countrymen.

The Luxembourg squad, some of whom are part-timers, have just returned to the Duchy after a week's training camp in the warm climes of Dubai.

But Philipp's key players who play outside Luxembourg were not with the rest of the squad, which was trying to get back into shape after the 2 1/2-month mid-winter league hiatus.

The hosts appear to have little to lose in this match, they are certainly out of the running for a qualifying spot, but will badly want to gain revenge for their narrow 1-0 defeat in the first meeting at Ramat Gan.

Luxembourg will miss the services of veteran defender Carlo Weiss, who is suspended. Guy Hellers of Standard Liege who is injured is also unlikely to be included in the 15 to dress for the game.

Goalkeeper Paul Koch, who gave the Israelis forwards a very frustrating time with an excellent performance in December will be hoping for a repeat performance, while in midfield Jeff Strasser of French side Metz and up front Manuel Cardoni of Bayer Leverkusen and Roby Langers and will want to show that they are no pushovers despite their side's dubious reputation.

Probable Luxembourg lineup: Paul Koch, Jean Vanek, Marc Birsens, Jeff Strasser, Frank Deville, Marc Lamborelle, Jeff Saltyene, Luc Holtz, Serge Thill, Manuel Cardoni, Roby Langers.

SCOREBOARD

NBA – Results on Saturday: Atlanta 88, Sacramento 74; Washington 94, Dallas 87; Chicago 111, New Jersey 101; Houston 120, Denver 105; Utah 115, San Antonio 102.

CRICKET – West Indies, trailing by 21 runs on the first innings, were 30 for two in their second innings at tea on the third day of the third Test against India in Bridgetown, Barbados yesterday.

Scores: West Indies 298 (S. Chanderpaul 137 not out; V. Prasad 5-82) and 30-2. India 319 (S. Tendulkar 92, R. Dravid 78; F. Rose 4-77).

Kentucky to face Arizona in all-Wildcats title game

Defending NCAA champion downs Minnesota 78-69
Arizona beats North Carolina 66-58

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) – This much is certain about tonight's NCAA title game: The Wildcats will win.

The Wildcats will lose, too, when defending champion Kentucky plays Arizona.

Arizona, which beat Kansas earlier in the tournament, knocked off another No. 1 seed Saturday night, defeating North Carolina 66-58 in the first semifinal.

"I'm thrilled, for the group of guys we have, because they're fighters," said Arizona coach Lute Olson, who had been 0-4 in Final Four games.

Arizona lost its last two regular season games by a combined three points, not the greatest recommendation for postseason success. Still, Olson likes the grittiness of his team.

"I'm just thrilled to have the opportunity to see them play tonight," he said. "It's the first ever and I told them as long as we've gone this far, we may as well get it done, as well." Now, Arizona must deal with Kentucky's press, which helped produce a 78-69 win over Minnesota in the second semifinal.

"You've got to handle that game-long, full-court pressure," Olson said. "But I think our guys like that type of game." Kentucky was installed as a seven-point favorite to win its seventh NCAA title. Arizona will try to win its first.

NCAA on TV

The final will be shown live on NBC tomorrow at 4.30 am.

"We've got to be ready for a great Arizona team," Kentucky coach Rick Pitino said. "We're going to have to play unbelievably. When they beat Kansas, we said it was an upset.

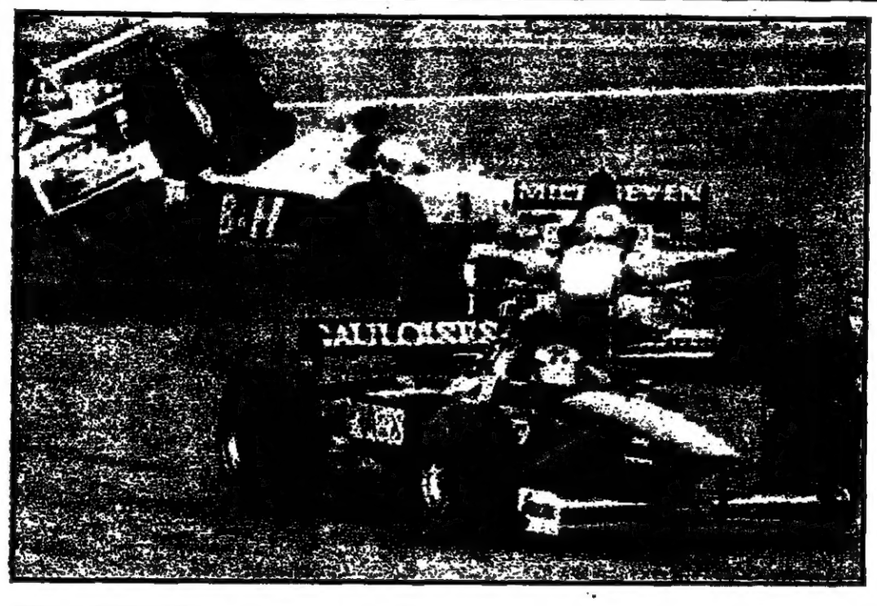
They are young players with no fear at all. We have our hands full with the quickest team I've seen in some time." Like Arizona, Kentucky has a young team. With Derek Anderson injured, the only senior starter is Anthony Epps. Sophomore Ron Mercer might as well be a senior since he's already declared for the NBA draft.

Kentucky lost four starters from last year's championship team and still went 30-4 in the regular season.

For Arizona, the keys have been the backcourt play of Miles Simon and Mike Bibby, who destroyed North Carolina with a combined 44 points. They've also had productive frontcourt play from A.J. Bramlett, Bennett Davison and Michael Dickerson.

"From an offensive standpoint, we know for us to do well, we've got to be able to score the shot from the perimeter," Olson said.

Bibby and Simon took care of that against Carolina with a combined nine 3-pointers. Bibby had four in a row in the second half that put Arizona in control for keeps.



Pileup in Brazil

Damon Hill's Arrows (left) is hit at the first turn after the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix in Sao Paulo yesterday. The race was won by World championship favorite Jacques Villeneuve of Canada driving a Williams who came in ahead of Austria's Gerhard Berger in a Benetton and Olivier Panis of France driving the new Prost team's car. (Reuter)

Herzliya halfway to safety

Relegation destiny in own hands as Hap. TA must sit and wait

By ELI GRONER

Bnei Herzliya completed the first stage of its two-part mission in National Basketball League action last night. Its victory over Galil Elyon, coupled with Hapoel Tel Aviv's loss to Eilat, left Herzliya in control of its own destiny. A win next week over Givat Shmuel sends the Tel Avivians to the second division. A loss means relegation.

In other action, Maccabi Ramat Gan assured its place in the league with a win over Maccabi Rishon while Maccabi Tel Aviv rolled over Hapoel Holon.

Hap. Eilat 85 Hap. Tel Aviv 81

Corey Gaines buried two free throws with two seconds remaining to virtually guarantee the southerners a playoff spot. The loss ended Tel Aviv's season and leaves them waiting for next week's Givat Shmuel-Herzliya result.

The game was tight throughout as a playoff atmosphere filled the air. It got so tense that with seven minutes to go, a fist-fight broke out between Gaines and Tel Aviv's Ori Lahav.

With four minutes to play, the score was knotted at 73 when Meir Tapiro (14 points) gave the hometown club the lead for good with a huge three-pointer. Amir Katz (18) followed that with two consecutive field goals opening up an 80-74 lead.

James Forrest led Eilat with 20 points.

Bnei Herzliya 88 Galil Elyon 72

Host Herzliya broke open a close game in the last four minutes providing a final score that doesn't reflect the tightness of the game.

The win leaves Herzliya with an opportunity to remain in the league next year.

Terrence Stansbury gave one of his best performances of the year, tallying 32 points, while abusing the overmatched Assaf Dotan. Lior Arditti added 22 for the victors.

Despite all of the celebrations following the victory, coach Muli Katzurin maintained that "Our work is only half done. We have to win next week against Givat Shmuel in order to stay in the league."

Mac. RG 73 Rishon Lezion 64

Ramat Gan put forth a valiant effort in clinching a spot in the league next year. Uri Cohen-Mintz led a balanced attack that featured four players in double-digit scoring, with 16 points. Leadel Eackles paced Rishon with 18.

Mac. Tel Aviv 91 Hap. Holon 69

Maccabi moved one step away from a perfect regular season by blowing out Holon in a game that was played strictly for the protocol.

In tonight's action, Maccabi Ra'anana will host Hapoel Jerusalem. The game will be broadcast live at 20:30 on Channel 5.

National Basketball League

	W	L	Pts.
Maccabi Tel Aviv	19	0	38
Hapoel Eilat	11	8	30
Hapoel Jerusalem	11	7	29
Hapoel Galil Elyon	10	9	29
Maccabi Ra'anana	10	8	28
Maccabi Rishon	8	11	27
Hapoel Tel Aviv	7	13	27
Givat Shumel	7	12	26
Mac. Ramat Gan	7	12	26
Hapoel Holon	7	12	26
Bnei Herzliya	7	12	26

Davis Cuppers leave for Slovakia

By HEATHER CHAIT

Israel's men's tennis team flies to Bratislava today to begin their 1997 Davis Cup campaign with a match against Slovakia.

The tie, in the Euro/African Zone Group I, will be held from April 4-6 with the winner advancing to the World Group Qualifying Round.

The Israel squad includes Eyal Ran, 145 in the ATP Tour rankings, Eyal Erlich (227), Noam Behr (272) and Amir Hadad (458) with Shlomo Glickstein as captain and coach Oded Ya'acov.

Slovakia's team will be Dominik Hrbaty (61), Karol Kucera (58) and Jan Kroslak (85).

By all accounts, the host team are the undisputed favorites with the more highly ranked players, the home advantage and the slow clay court, a surface ill-suited to the Israeli players' liking.

As of yesterday, the possibility existed that the tie would be moved indoors due to temperatures of 8-10 degrees Celsius, but a final decision will be taken only on Thursday.

"While everything points in the Slovaks' favor," said Glickstein yesterday, "anything is possible in Davis Cup and I hope our players will be in top form."

Anti-Israel protesters force abandonment of Netherlands-Canada match

Israel's cricketers lose to Gibraltar by two wickets

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) – About 500 Moslem men and women invaded a ground where they mistakenly thought Israel's cricketers were playing a match, and forced another international game to be called off before moving on to hunt for the Israelis.

The protesters belonging to an Islamic opposition party lit bonfires and smashed advertising billboards at the PKNF Playing Ground outside Kuala Lumpur, where Canada and the Netherlands were supposed to play a preliminary match for the ICC Trophy.

Meanwhile, Israel played Gibraltar in a stadium in another Kuala Lumpur suburb, guarded by about 100 riot police. Five police buses blocked the single entrance of the stadium in anticipation of a demonstration.

Israel lost by two wickets, making 87 all out in 41 overs, the Gibratarians overhauled the target for the loss of eight wickets in 34.2 overs.

Technical committee spokesman Clive Hitchcock said the Netherlands-Canada game would not be replayed, and each team would receive one point in the standings.

As of late evening, there was no sign of the protesters, who had vowed to hunt for the Israelis among the several venues where 22 non-Test playing nations are competing in the 21-day tournament.

"This is a warning to the government to send the Israelis back before there is more trouble," said protest leader Mahfuz Omar, an official of the Parti Agama se-Islam, or PAS.

He and other demonstrators marched into the PKNF ground – an unprotected playing field – and walked over the pitch, chanting: "Damn the Zionists," "Crush Israel," and "Long live Islam." Some of them carried stones but throw them.

The managers of Canada and the Netherlands drove their players away from the ground, saying they feared for their safety. Match referee John Reed of New Zealand called off the match, saying, "There is no point in carrying on."

Vancouver beats Calgary, moves closer to playoffs

CALGARY (Reuter) – Trevor Linden scored for the first time in nearly a month to cap a three-goal first period and Kirk McLean stopped 28 shots as the Vancouver Canucks defeated the Calgary Flames, 5-2, on Saturday.

Sergei Nemchinov and Brian Noonan, acquired from the New York Rangers on March 8th, also scored in the first period for Vancouver.

The Canucks moved within three points of Calgary and Chicago for the final playoff berth in the West.

At the Islanders, Bryan Smolinski scored twice in a four-goal first period and Zigmund Palffy had a hat trick in the second period as the New York Islanders cruised to an 8-2 victory over the Boston Bruins.

New York improved to 4-0-1 in its last five games, its longest unbeaten streak of the season, and moved to within one point of eighth-place Washington in the Eastern Conference.

Newly-acquired Robert Reichel had four assists, giving him 12 points in five games since being acquired from Calgary.

Saturday's results: NY Islanders 8, Boston 2; Hartford 2, NY Rangers 1; Pittsburgh 4, Los Angeles 1; Vancouver 5, Calgary 2; Toronto 3, Colorado 2; Florida 1, Tampa Bay 1 (OT); Ottawa 5, Montreal 2; Philadelphia 5, Washington 3; Edmonton 3, Phoenix 1.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Maxim Shostakovich conducts the works of his father, Dmitri, with the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra. He conducts the Chamber Symphony Op. 110a, the second piano concerto (soloist Revital Hachamov) and the third ballet suite composed by his father, as well as Prokofiev's first symphony and Mussorgsky's *Dawn on Moscow River*. Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday in Ra'anana (9).

Italian-born pianist Maria Curcio, who studied with Artur Schnabel and among whose students are Radu Lupu and Martha Argerich, presents a series of masterclasses at the *Jerusalem Music* Center today through Thursday (daily 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m.). Admission free.

Cuba Gooding Jr. won an Oscar for his portrayal of a second-rate NFL wide-receiver in 'Jerry Maguire.'

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★ FIERCE CREATURES – This all-too-accurate spoof of corporate takeover culture is set in an English zoo, reunites the cast of *A Fish Called Wanda*, and works just as a follow-up comedy should: instead of confining the actors to repetition of a few tried-and-true shticks, the filmmakers trust in the ensemble's chemistry, and set them loose to try on new roles. The strength of both pictures lies in John Cleese's script – he wrote the movie with film critic Iain Johnstone – and in the actors' complementary personalities. While *Fierce Creatures* does seem a bit tamer than the first movie, it's also marked by flashes of mad inspiration. With Cleese, Kevin Kline, Jamie Lee Curtis and Michael Palin. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

★★★ JERRY MAGUIRE – Tom Cruise stars in this bittersweet comedy about a fast-talking athletic agent whose integrity gets him fired; as his unctuous employer makes it painfully clear, there's no room for old-fashioned ideals like Jerry's in the sneaker-and-soda-sponsored world of professional American sports. So our hero is forced to go it almost alone, with no friends but a single client, a second-rate NFL wide-receiver (Cuba Gooding Jr.) and a shy, daydreamy accountant (Renee Zellweger), who quits her job to help Jerry. Although the outline may sound a bit schematic, there's a winning, softly goofy approach to director Cameron Crowe's approach. Instead of imposing optimism on the characters from above, the dubious method of most feel-good directors, he lets their own hopefulness and idealism bubble up and carry the film.

If anything, Crowe himself seems to recognize a few dark truths about human nature that the characters don't, and he uses their slightly pie-in-the-sky ideas and emotions as a source of gentle humor. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Channel 8 began its new program schedule this week. *Mondays are devoted to in-depth investigations* of various subjects of social significance and are hosted by journalist Billy Moskona-Lerman.

Tonight the topic is television: The first film, at 8:30, takes a look at telenovellas. In Brazil, the capital of telenovellas, slum dwellers sell their refrigerators in order to buy a TV. The hegemonic corporation Globo TV thus controls the lives of all citizens, rich and poor, through some three daily hours of telenovellas which capture 75% viewing rates.

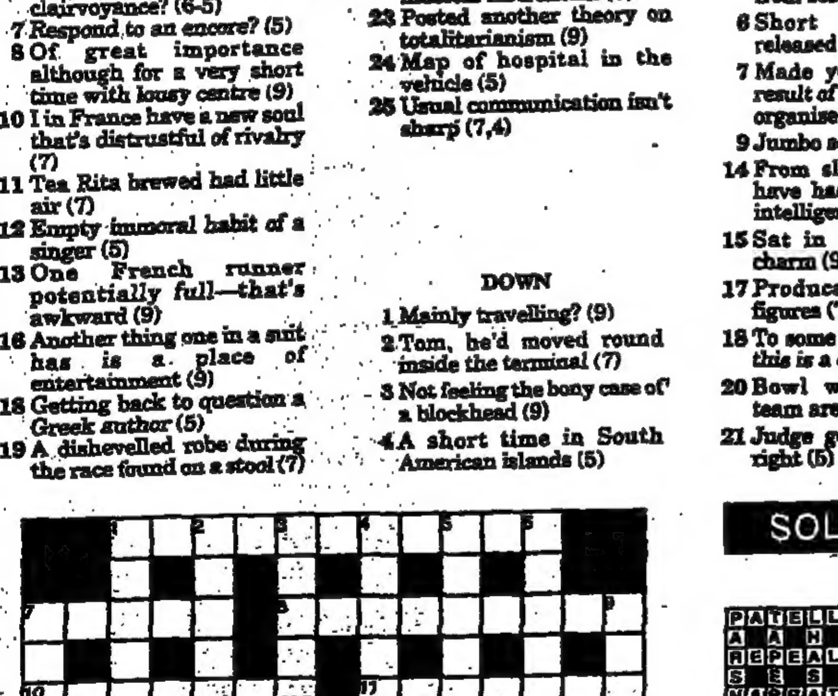
Following, at 9:30, is a Frontline film, *Does TV Kill?*, which examines the influence TV has on our lives.

FERDNAND

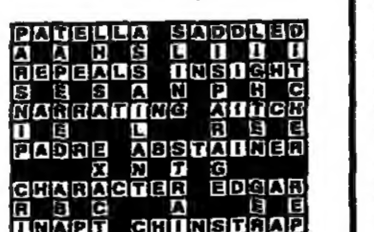
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Extremely short view of clairvoyance? (6-5)
7 Respond to an encore? (5)
8 Of great importance although for a very short time with lousy centre (9)
10 I in France have a new soul that's distrustful of rivalry (7)
11 Tea Rita brewed had little air (7)
12 Empty immoral habit of a singer (5)
13 One French runner potentially full—that's awkward (9)
16 Another thing one in a suit has is a place of entertainment (9)
18 Getting back to question a Greek author (5)
19 A dishevelled robe during the race found on a stool (7)
22 In a following vehicle, there is nothing first but a musical instrument (7)
23 Posted another theory on totalitarianism (9)
24 Map of hospital in the vehicle (5)
25 Usual communication isn't sharp (7,4)

DOWN
1 Mainly travelling? (9)
2 Tom, he'd moved round inside the terminal (7)
3 Not feeling the bony case of a blockhead (9)
4 A short time in South American islands (5)
5 Spirit US soldier left, I concluded, contained oil from sesame seeds (7)
6 Short attempt with released fish (5)
7 Made young again as a result of rave Ted and June organised (11)
9 Jumbo seal? (3-8)
14 From slum, baron could have had less than usual intelligence (9)
15 Sat in cafe developing charm (9)
17 Produce attendance figures (7)
18 To some French islanders, this is a capital place (7)
20 Bowl when university team are batting (5)
21 Judge getting line about right (5)

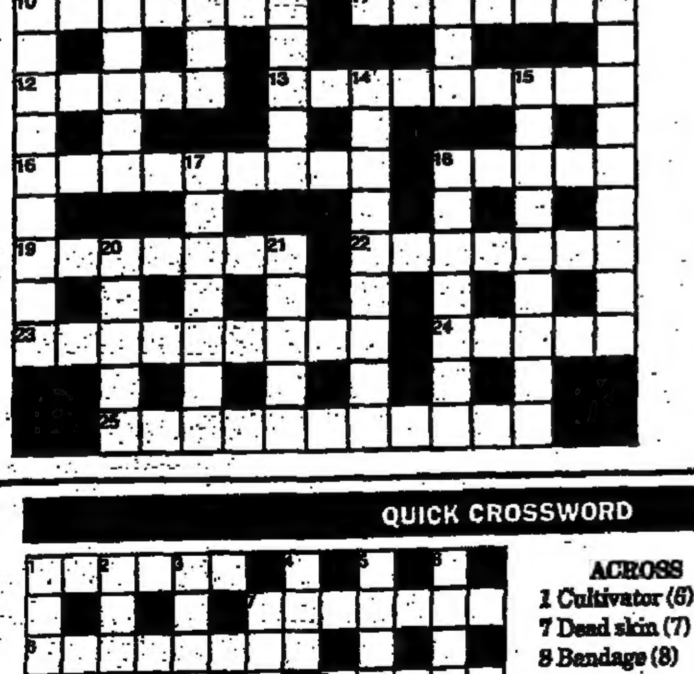


SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 7 Banned, 8 Lieder, 10 Nothing, 11 Paris, 12 Owns, 13 Broth, 17 Cargo, 18 Zero, 22 Twist, 23 Tempest, 24 Absurd, 25 Strain.
DOWN: 1 Abandon, 2 Instant, 3 Peril, 4 Dispute, 5 Adorn, 6 Prose, 9 Aggregate, 14 Pasture, 15 General, 16 Portend, 19 Steel, 20 Tipsy, 21 Empty.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Cultivator (6)
7 Dead skin (7)
8 Bandage (8)
9 Italian sauce (5)
10 Guitar-like instrument (5)
11 Fate (4)
12 Desert havens (5)
15 Bream (anag) (5)
16 Garden flower (5)
19 True (4)
20 Tooth (5)
21 Violin (5)
22 Vigorous (8)
23 Knives, forks and spoons (7)
24 Unlock (6)

DOWN
1 Punctuation mark (4,4)
2 With a just claim (8)
3 Consumer (5)
4 Tint (3)
5 Big screen (6)
6 Dress (6)
7 Plausibility (11)
9 Deficient (4)
13 High heel (8)
14 Quicker way (5-3)
15 Felled (4)
17 Attack strongly (3,3)
18 Divine agency (6)
20 Italian city (5)
22 Ararat boat (3)

TV

■ CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning, Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Computers and the Internet
8:30 Basic Arabic
9:00 Reading
9:20 Nature
9:45 Programs for the very young
10:15 Sciences
10:40 English
11:10 Social Sciences
11:40 Tolerance
12:10 Sciences
12:30 History
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy
14:35 Babar the Elephant
15:00 Cartoons
15:10 Without Secrets

■ CHANNEL 1

15:30 Motormice from Mars
15:55 Booly
16:00 Dubideh – live show
16:25 Byker Grove
16:50 Zap to Basel
16:59 A New Evening
17:35 News in English
17:50 Soccer: Israel vs Luxembourg – live
18:45 News in Arabic
18:55 Soccer – continued
20:00 News
20:45 Popolitica
22:15 Different Drummer – culture magazine
23:00 *Mirrors* – this week, Batsheva, a poet whose father is a construction worker
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Sharkey and George
7:00 Breakfast Magazine
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
11:00 A Man of the People
11:30 Five Children and It
12:00 Doug
12:30 Basic Arabic
13:00 Hillside
13:30 Open Cards
14:00 Just Us
14:30 Tic Tac – quiz show
15:00 Super Duper
15:30 Make a Wish
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News Magazine with Rafi Reshef
17:30 Zehu Zeh
18:00 McKenna – the adventures of a family in Oregon
19:00 Pacific Blue
20:00 News
20:30 It's Nothing
21:45 *Dan Shilon Live*
23:20 Millennium
00:00 News
00:05 Millennium – continued
00:25 Night Owls Talk
2:00 On the Edge of the Shelf

■ JORDAN TV

15:00 Holy Koran
15:05 Captain Planet
16:30 The Flintstones
17:00 French programs
17:00 Nature's Inventions
17:50 Ocean Girl
18:00 Extra Dimensions
19:00 French programs
20:30 News headlines
20:35 One Foot in the Grave
21:00 Discover Magazine
21:30 Murder She Wrote
22:10 Highlander
23:00 News in English
23:25 Under Suspicion
00:15 Middlemarch

■ MIDDLE EAST TV

8:00 TV Shop
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Gerbert
16:25 Movie: Lucky Luke
17:55 Family Challenge
18:40 Family Matters
19:05 Saved by the Bell
19:30 Larry King
20:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
21:00 Cosby
21:25 Mr. Bean
21:50 Major Dad
22:15 Diagnosis Murder
23:05 Matlock
00:00 CNN
00:30 The 700 Club
1:00 Quantum Shopping

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons
16:30 The Thirst of Years
17:30 Panorama
18:00 Amores
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Doctors Talk
20:00 News
20:45 International Art Magazine
21:15 At War with the Army (1950) – Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin are soldiers in their first movie together
22:45 The Duchess of Duke Street

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now
16:00 Animals of the Mediterranean
16:30 Under Investigation
16:50 Fruits of the Earth
17:05 Landmarks in Science and Technology
17:30 Faces of Culture
18:00 Basic Arabic
18:30 Family Relations
19:00 Computers and the Internet
19:30 Vis à Vis
20:00 *A New Evening* – with Russian subtitles
20:30 Cybernews
21:00 Star Trek: Deep Space 9
21:45 Video Clips
22:00 Female Perspective
22:30 Situation – documentary
23:30 Revolutions in the Modern Era

■ FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
8:00 Dallas
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt)
11:15 Zingara (rpt)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco
13:30 Duet
14:00 Dallas
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 The Nanny
16:00 Hercules
16:45 Zingara
17:30 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:00 Local Broadcast
18:30 One Life to Live
19:15 The Young and the Restless
20:00 Sunset Beach
20:50 Married With Children
21:15 Shtock Show
21:40 Seinfeld
22:05 Ned and Stacey
22:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
23:00 Friends (rpt)
23:25 ER (rpt)
00:15 ENG Newsroom
1:05 Barnaby Jones

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Broken Lullaby (1994) (rpt)
13:05 The Strange Love of Martha Ivers (1946) (rpt)
15:00 Seeing Stars
15:25 Family of Cops (1995) (rpt)
17:00 A Captive in the Land (1991) – *different philosophies conflict when American and Soviet meteorologists are trapped together*
18:30 Special Report on *Fierce Creatures*
18:55 The Awakening (1995) – *a motel manager gives in to fantasies and runs off with a mysterious stranger*
20:30 Rave Review (1995) (rpt)
22:00 *The Monster* (Italian, 1994) – *A simple-minded innocent is suspected of being a serial killer.* Directed by and starring Roberto Benigni.
00:00 Backstreet Justice (1993) – action thriller
1:15 Le Marginal (French, 1983) – a police inspector and his deadly enemy stalk each other until they meet face to face. With Jean-Paul Belmondo
2:55 The Night We Never Met (1993) – romantic comedy with Matthew Broderick (98 mins.)

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
9:00 Alice In Wonderland
9:30 The Center of Things
9:45 Pink Panther Show
10:20 Lois and Clark
11:05 The Center of Things
11:20 Family Matter
11:50 Itai and Friends
12:00 *Twisted Tales* of Felix
12:30 Hugo
13:00 Make Believe Closet
13:10 Free Willy
13:30 Inspector Gadget
14:00 The Little Bits
14:30 Alice In Wonderland
15:00 The Center of Things
15:15 Pink Panther Show
15:50 *Ocean Girl*
16:35 California Dreams
17:05 Channel 6 reruns
17:30 Shesh-Tus
18:00 Hugo
18:30 Jin Jin and the Panda Patrol
19:00 Honey Bee Hutch
19:30 Step By Step
20:00 Animaniacs
20:20 Married With Children
20:50 Roseanne
21:10 TV 101

■ SECOND SHOWING (5)

22:00 Mother Kuster Goes to Heaven (German, 1975) – a German factory worker kills his boss and then commits suicide, but his widow must deal with the aftermath. Directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder
23:45 Stavisky (French, 1974) – Alain Resnais drama based on the true story of a swindler in 1930s France whose financial exploits brought on riots that toppled the government. With Jean-Paul Belmondo and Gerard Depardieu. (112 mins.)

■ CHANNEL 8

8:00 Open University (rpt)
8:05 Wings of the *Red Star (rpt)*

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30					Step By Step	Travelogue
20:00	News	News	Sunset Beach		Animaniacs Married with Children	Big city Metro
20:30	Popolitica	It's Nothing	Married with Children	Rave Review	Roseanne	Investigative Reports
21:00			Shtock Show		TV 101	
21:30		Dan Shilon Live	Seinfeld			Frontline: Does TV Kill?
22:00	Different Drummer		Ned and Stacey	The Monster	Mother Kuster Goes to Heaven	
22:30			Love Story with Yossi Siyas			National Geographic
23:00	Mirrors		Friends			

8:55 Blue Wilderness, part 4: Turning Wilderness
9:30 The Grand Concert
10:30 Black River – opera
11:30 Kronos Quartet
12:30 Father of *Giants (rpt)*
13:30 Rolf's Indian Walkabout, part 3 (rpt)
14:20 Confronting the History – South Africa today
15:10 Desperately *Seeking Asylum*
16:05 National Geographic (rpt)
17:00 Open University – The Jewess and the Captain; The Hermitage; New Living Body
19:00 World on a *Plate* – new series on the history of food
19:30 Travelogue
20:00 Big City Metro, Part 1: Madrid
20:30 Investigative Reports with Billy Moskona Lerman – telenovellas
21:30 Frontline: Does TV Kill?
22:45 National Geographic: Black Widow
23:40 Open University – Jane Austen; Marketing: Abuse of Memory

■ SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 Frost's Century
7:00 The Best of The Ticket
7:30 Travel Xpress
8:00 Today
10:00 Time and Again
11:00 Dateline
12:00 National Geographic Television – Mysteries Underground; Save the Panda; Rain Forest
15:00 VIP
15:30 The Ticket
16:00 Travel Xpress
16:30 Europe A La Carte
17:00 Interiors By Design
17:30 Gardening By *the Yard*
18:00 The Site
19:00 National Geographic Television – Among the Wild Chimps
20:00 The Ticket
20:30 VIP
21:00 Dateline
22:00 NCAA Basketball
23:00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
00:00 The Best of Late Night with Conan O'Brien
1:00 The Best of Later
2:30 NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw
3:00 *Internight*
4:00 VIP
4:30 NCAA Basketball Final, live from Indianapolis – see today's highlights

■ STAR PLUS

6:30 Aerobics Oz Style
7:00 Anne Willan's Look and Cook
7:30 Model TV
8:00 Kate and Allie
8:30 Oprah Winfrey
9:30 Dynasty
10:30 Santa Barbara
11:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
12:00 Hindi shows
13:30 Land of the Giants
14:30 Black Beauty
15:00 Kate and Allie
15:30 Anne Willan's Look and Cook
16:00 Living on the Edge
17:30 Hindi programs
18:30 Star News
19:00 Yes, Minister
19:30 Final Cut – part 4
20:30 *The Bold and* the Beautiful
21:00 Santa Barbara
22:00 Star News
22:30 X-Files
23:30 Star Trek
00:30 Fantasy Island
1:30 Oprah Winfrey
2:30 Barnaby Jones

■ CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion
10:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 National League Basketball
18:00 English League Soccer – roundup
19:00 NCAA Basketball – Final Four (rpt)
21:00 South American Soccer
22:00 To be announced
23:00 Billiards

■ EUROSPORT

9:30 Speedskating: World Short Track Championship, Japan (rpt)
11:00 Ski Show, Paris
12:00 Cycling: BMX World Championship, Germany
12:30 Rollerskating: Extreme Competition, Germany
13:00 Soccer: World Cup Qualifying Round (rpt)
15:00 Adventura: Extreme Windsurfing
15:30 Snowboard: ISF World Cup, France
16:00 Cycling: Belgian Grand Prix – live
17:30 Trial: Indoor World Cup, France
19:00 Speedworld
20:00 Soccer: Friendly game, France
22:00 Super Mountainbike, France
23:00 World's Strongest Man (rpt)
00:00 Eurogoals
1:00 Snooker

■ PRIME SPORTS (unconfirmed)

5:30 Superbike World Championship, Australia
7:00 NBA Game of the Week – San Antonio Spurs vs. *Utah Jazz (rpt)*
9:00 Golf: Malaysia Omega Tour preview
10:00 Cricket: Indian Tour of West Indies
14:30 Sports India
15:00 Cricket: Indian *Tour of West Indies*
20:00 Trans World Sport
21:00 Chinese League Soccer
23:30 Showjumping: World Cup
00:30 International Motorsports News
1:30 Asian Sport Show
2:30 Golf: US PGA Tour
4:00 *Cricket: Indian* Tour of West Indies
5:00 NCAA Basketball Championship Final – live from Indianapolis

■ BBC WORLD

News on the hour
6:05 The Money Programme
6:15 The Money Programme
11:30 The Clothes Show (rpt)
12:30 Top Gear (rpt)
15:05 Assignment (rpt)
16:15 World Business Report
16:30 Asia-Pacific Newshour
17:30 Film '97
18:15 The Money Programme
19:30 Tomorrow's World (rpt)
21:30 Conversations with *Tim Sebastian*
22:30 Window On Europe
23:30 Holiday
00:00 World News and Business Report
2:10 News Night

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL

News throughout the day
6:30 NBA Week
7:30 Insight (rpt)
8:30 Global View
9:30 World Sport
11:30 CNN Newsroom
13:30 American Edition
13:45 Q&A (rpt)
14:00 Asian News
14:30 World Sport
15:00 Asian News
15:30 Business Asia
16:00 Impact
17:30 World Sport (rpt)
18:30 Earth Matters
19:30 Q & A
20:45 American Edition
21:00 World Business Today
21:30 World News
22:00 Impact
23:00 European News
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
2:30 Moneyline

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Morning Concert
9:05 Oded Zehavi: If Only; Theodorakis: excerpts from Zorba ballet (soloists, bouzouki players/Hungarian Radio *Choir/Hungarian State* Orch/Theodorakis); David Tannenbaum plays guitar – Peter Maxwell Davis: Sonata for guitar; Roberto Sierra: *Triptych for guitar and* string orch; Abel Ehrlich: Music for orchestra ;Françaix: Quintet in E for winds
12:00 Light Classical – Works by Haydn: First movement of "Surprise" Symphony; Trumpet concerto in E; *second movement* from "Clock" Symphony; Piano concerto in D; fourth movement from Symphony no 104 "London"
13:00 Artist of the Week – pianist Walter Gieseking. Bach: The *Well-Tempered* Clavier Book 1, Preludes and Fugues nos 16-24 BWV 861-869; Grieg: from Lyric Pieces – Cradle Song no 5 op 68, French Fantasy op 62/3
14:05 Encore
15:00 Cycle of Works – Beethoven's piano concertos
16:00 Early music
17:00 Etnahta – live broadcast from Henry Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem. Orit Wolf (*piano*). Bach/Hess: Chorale from Cantata no 147; Pachelbel: Variations on Chorale no 147 by Bach; Orit Wolf: Adam and Eve (1997, premiere); Beethoven: Sonata in E minor op 90; Chopin: 4 Mazurkas op 67; Ravel: Jeux d'eau; Gideon Klein: Sonata for piano; Brahms: 4 pieces op 119
19:00 Rainbow of Sounds
20:05 Mozart: Piano concerto no 15; Haydn: Symphony no 88
21:00 A Matter of Agreement
23:00 Just Jazz

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Last Man Standing 5 ★ Bullets Over Broadway 7 ★ Wings of Desire 9:30 ★ The Life and Times of Allen Ginsberg 9:30 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Empire of the Senses ● Fierce Creatures ● Fargo 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Star Trek: First Contact ● Kolya ●Mars Attacks! 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Ghost and the Darkness 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Sleepers 7:15, 10 ★ Kazaam 4:45 **JERUSALEM THEATER** 20 Marcus St. ☎ 5610011 Breaking the Waves 6:30 ★ Kolya 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiotdsadasd Everyone Says I Love You●Devil's Own●Big Night 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Scream●Ransom 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Romeo and Juliet 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Star Wars 5, 7:15 ★ Larry Flynt vs People 4:30, 7:15 **MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL** ☎ 5700868 One Fine Day ●Lost Highway 4:45, 7:15, 10 **SMADAR** ☎ 5635131 Shine 5:45, 7:45, 10

TEL AVIV
DIZENGOFF ☎ 5101370 Box of Moonlight●Kolya 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:45, 10 ★ Jane Eyre 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 ★ Beyond the Clouds 7:45 ★ Mulholland Falls 10 **GAT** Everyone Says I Love You 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 **G.G. HOD 1-4** ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Empire of Senses●Fierce Creatures ●Mars Attacks! 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Fargo 7:30, 10 ★ Kazaam 5 **LEV** Shine 11:45 a.m., 2, 4:45, 8, 10 ★ Secrets and Lies 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7, 9:45 ★ The Prisoner of the Mountains 1, 3, 5:30, 8, 10 ★ La Ceremonie 11 a.m. ★ Trainspotting 3:15 ★ Something Beautiful 1:15 a.m., 1:15, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30 ★ The Pillow Book **G.G. PE'ER** Empire of the Sense●Fargo 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Fierce Creatures●Mars Attacks! 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Kazaam 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Michael Collins **RAV-CHEN** ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Center The Devil's Own●Scream 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Star Wars 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Romeo and Juliet 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Ransom 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Matilda ●The Hunchback of Notre Dame *(Hebrew dialog)* ● ★ Homeward Bound II●Ace Ventura ●Jack **RAV-OR 1-5** ☎ 5102674 Opera House Big Night●The Crucible●Two Days in the Valley 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Larry Flynt vs People 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Lone Star 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 **G.G. TEL AVIV** ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. Star Trek: First Contact 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Lost Highway●Sleepers 7:15, 10 **TEL AVIV MUSEUM** Little Sister 5, 8, 10

HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 8325755 Breaking the Waves 6:45, 9:30 ★ Secrets and Lies 7, 9:30 **CINEMATHEQUE** Summer in La Goulette 9:30 **GLOBECITY** Fierce Creatures ●Empire of Senses ● Mars Attacks! 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Fargo 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Star Trek: First Contact 9:45 ★ Kazaam 4:45, 7:15 **MORIAH** ☎ 6643654 Shine 7:30, 9:30 ★ *Pillow Book* **ORLY** ☎ 8381868 Everyone Says I Love You 7, 9:15 **PANORAMA** Kolya 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Fierce Creatures 7, 9:30 ★ Box of Moonlight 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Star Trek: First Contact 4:30 **RAV-GAT 1-2** ☎ 8674311 Devil's Own 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:15, 7, 9:30 **RAV-MOR 1-7** ☎ 8416898 Scream 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Everyone Else Says I Love You 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ Romeo and Juliet●The Devil's Own●Ransom 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:15, 7, 9:30 **RAV-OR 1-3** ☎ 8246553 Star Wars 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Romeo and Juliet 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ Larry Flynt vs People 4:30, 7, 9:30

AFULA
RAV CHEN ☎ 6424047 Jerry Maguire 7, 9:30 ★ The Devil's Own●Star Wars 7, 9:30

ARAD
STAR ☎ 9950904 Star Wars 7, 9:30 ★ Star Trek: First Contact 9:30 ★ Kazaam 7 ★ One Fine Day 7, 9:30

ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 Kazaam●Mars Attacks! 5, 7:30, 10 ★ The Ghost and the Darkness●Star Trek: First Contact 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Sleepers 7, 9:45 **G.G. ORI 1-3** ☎ 711223 Kama Sutra●Fierce Creatures●Fargo 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 8661120 The Devil's Own●Scream●One Fine Day 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Romeo and Juliet 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Ransom 9:45 ★ Star Wars 5, 7:15

ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 729977 Fierce Creatures●The Ghost and the Darkness●Mars Attacks! 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Secrets and Lies 7:15, 10 ★ Kazaam 5, 7:30 ★ Kama Sutra 10 **RAV CHEN** *Shine●The Devil's Own* 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Breaking the Wives 7, 9:45 ★ Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45

BAT YAM
RAV CHEN Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Devil's Own●Fierce Creatures 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Scream 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Romeo and Juliet 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Ransom 5, 7:15, 9:45

BEERSHEBA
G.G. GIL ☎ 6440771 Kazaam●The Ghost and the Darkness●Star Trek: First Contact 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 One Fine Day 4:45, 7:15, 10 **G.G. ORI** ☎ 6103111 Mars Attacks! ● Fargo ● Fierce Creatures 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Secrets and Lies 7, 9:45 **RAV-NEGEV 1-4** ☎ 6235278 The Devil's Own 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Scream 5, 9:45 ★ Larry Flynt vs People 7:15

HADERA
LEV The Devil's Own 7:30, 9:45 ★ Shine 7:30, 10 ★ Star Wars●Jerry Maguire 7:15, *10*

HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎ 6902666 Jerry Maguire●Larry Flynt vs People 5, 7:45, 10:15 **HOLIDAY** Fargo 7:30, 10 **STAR** ☎ 589068 Jerry Maguire 9 7:30, 10 ★ Star Wars 10 ★ Kazaam 7:30 ★ The Devil's Own 7:30, 10

KARMIEL
CINEMA Jerry Maguire 6:45, 9:30 ★ The Devil's Own●Star Wars 7, 9:30

KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎ 7677370 The Devil's Own●Mars Attacks! 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Secrets and Lies 7:15, 10 ★ Kazaam 5 ★ Fierce Creatures 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Breaking the Waves 9:45 ★ Star Wars 5, 7:30 ★ Shine 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 10

KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. GIL Romeo and Juliet●Mars Attacks! ●Kolya●Fierce Creatures 7:15, 9:45 ★ Ransom●Shine ●Breaking the Waves 7:15, 9:45 ★ Secrets and Lies●One Fine Day 7:15, 9:45 ★ Kazaam 7:15 ★ Star Trek: First Contact 9:45

KIRYAT SHMONA
G.G. GIL ☎ 6905080 The Devil's Own●Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Fierce Creatures 9:30 ★ Star Wars 4:30, 7

LOD
STAR ☎ 9246823 One Fine Day 7:30, 10 ★ Kazaam●Fierce Creatures 7:45, 10

NAHARIYA
HEICHAL HATARBUT Extreme Measures 8:30

UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL Jerry Maguire●Fierce CreaturesStar Wars●Kazaam 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Lone Star●Romeo and Juliet●The Devil's Own 4:30, 7, 9:30

NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 404729 Empire of Senses 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Secrets and Lies 10 ★ Fierce Creatures 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Breaking the Waves 6:45, 9:45 ★ Kazaam 4:45, 7:15

NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 628452 Fierce Creatures●Shine 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Secrets and Lies 4:30, 7:15, 10 ★ Mars Attacks! 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Fargo 7:30, 10 ★ Kazaam 5 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 8618570 The Devil's Own 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Breaking the Waves 7, 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

OR AKIVA
RAV CHEN ☎ 6262758 The Devil's Own 7, 9:30 ★ Breaking the Waves 6:30, 9:15 ★ Jerry Maguire 6:45, 9:30

OR YEHUDA
G.G. GIL 1-4 Scream●Fierce Creatures 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Ransom●One Fine Day 5, 7:30, 10

PETAH TIKVA
G.G. HECHAL The Devil's Own 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Breaking the Waves 6:45, 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:45, 7:15, 10 **G.G. RAM 1-3** ☎ 9340818 One Fine Day●Scream ●Lost Highway 7:30, 10 **SIRKIN** Romeo and Juliet●Star Wars 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Mars Attacks!●Fierce Creatures 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Secrets and Lies 7:15, 10 ★ Kazaam 5 ★ Shine 5, 7:30, 10

RA'ANANA
PARK Shine 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ The Devil's Own●Jerry Maguire 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ Larry Flynt vs People 10 ★ Romeo and Juliet 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ Star Wars 4:45, 7:15

RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 6197121 The Devil's Own 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ *Romeo and Juliet* 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Everyone Says I Love You 5, 7:30, 9:45 **RAV-OASIS 1-3** ☎ 6730687 Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Two Days in the Valley 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Larry Flyny vs People 9:45 ★ Kazaam 5, 7:30

RAMAT HASHARON
KOKHAV Shine 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Daylight

REHOVOT
CHEN Shine 7:30, 10 ★ Secrets and Lies●Breaking the Waves 7, 9:45 ★ Fargo 9:45 ★ Kazaam 7:15 **RAV MOR** Kolya●The Devil's Own 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Scream 9:45 ★ Romeo and Juliet 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Larry Flynt vs People●Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Star Wars 5, 7:15

RISHON LEZION
GAL 1-5 ☎ 9619669 The Ghost and the Darkness●Ransom ●Star Trek: First Contact 7:30, 10 **GIL 1-3** Fierce Creatures●Shine 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Fargo 7:30, 10 ★ Kazaam 5 **HAZAHAV** Mars Attacks!●Fierce Creatures 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Breaking the Waves 6:30, 9:30 ★ Empire of Senses 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Shine 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** The Devil's Own 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Everyone Says I Love You 5, 7:30, 9:45 **STAR** The Devil's Own●Star Wars 7:30, 10 ★ Kazaam 7:45 ★ One Fine Day 10 ★ Jerry Maguire 7:15, 10

YEHUD
RAV CHEN The Devil's Own 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Jerry Maguire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Romeo and Juliet 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45

For reservations: Tel Aviv 5252244; Haifa 728878. All times are p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Nimrodi to sue Channel 2 News

By RAINE MARCUS and BATSHEVA TSUR

Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi intends to sue Channel 2 News and the daily's former reporter Erez Rotem. This follows broadcasts on Friday and Saturday that he was behind efforts to appoint his lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak as justice minister and subsequently attorney-general.

Rotem gave evidence to State Attorney Edna Arbel allegedly implicating Nimrodi and Avi-Yitzhak in the Bar-On Affair. He also accused Nimrodi (currently on trial in the media wiretapping case) of pushing his lawyer to become justice minister or attorney-general so that he might be granted a pardon or plea bargain.

When this did not work, said Rotem in his evidence, Nimrodi and Avi Yitzhak leaked the Bar-On for Hebron story to Channel 1.

Nimrodi has emphatically denied the allegations.

The State Attorney's Office refused to comment on whether it had received testimony about Nimrodi's possible involvement.

Rotem, who was originally *Ma'ariv's* court reporter, before he began covering the security beat, was known as being close to Nimrodi. *Ma'ariv* reported yesterday that Rotem had been fired, but other sources said that he left left after an argument and the circumstances were unclear. Attempts were made to persuade Rotem to remain, said a source.

Meanwhile, police investigating the Bar-On Affair and officials at the Internal Security Ministry and Prime Minister's Office have known about the allegations for some time. Rotem's evidence may force police to probe new aspects of the complicated affair.

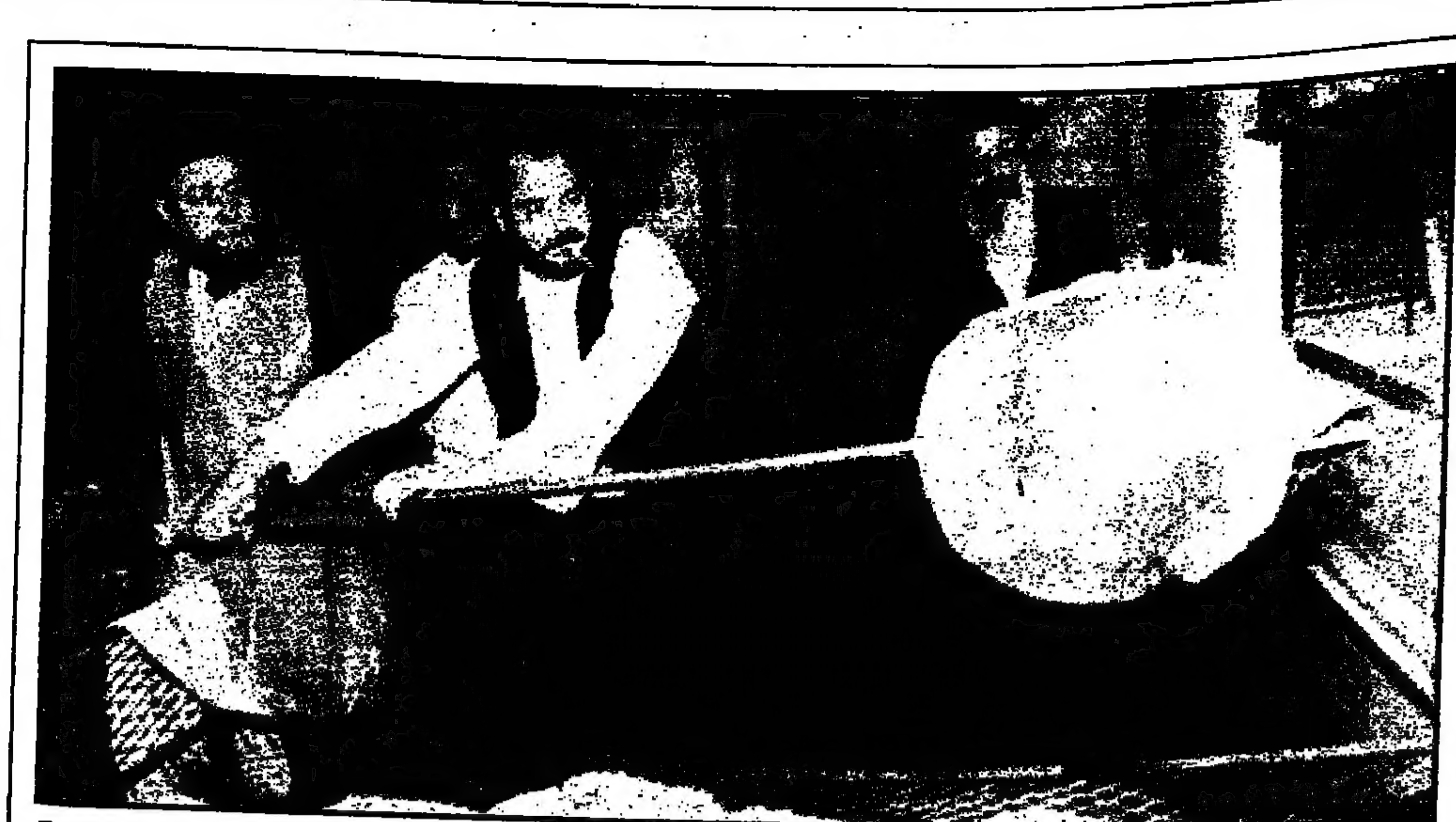
In a related development, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday left for a week's vacation skiing in Europe. The vacation was planned well in advance, the ministry said last night, denying reports that Hanegbi wanted to ease the situation in the ministry where crucial decisions on the Bar-On Affair are now being made.

Hanegbi was questioned several times under caution in connection with the affair. There has been public pressure for him to take a leave of absence until the conclusions of the investigating team have been published.

Meanwhile, the police team met with the legal experts at Neveh Ilan in the Jerusalem Corridor for the third time in a week. They were joined by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein who, together Arbel, will make the final decision on whether or not to present indictments.

"This is close to the last meeting. We have a few more things to iron out," Arbel said after the meeting.

"It is a very delicate matter and we have to be careful, so we are taking our time," Rubinstein added.



Preparing for Pessah

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau (left) helps bake 'shmura' matza for Pessah in Bnei Brak yesterday. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Clalit threatens to take Treasury to court

By JUDY SIEGEL

Kupat Holim Clalit is considering the possibility of petitioning the High Court of Justice over the Treasury's failure to reimburse it for the growing costs of services it must supply under the two-year-old National Health Insurance law. Clalit chairman Prof. Dan Michaeli and deputy director-general for finance Ze'ev Warmbrand told reporters yesterday that last year's total deficit for all the health funds was NIS 800 million, which will grow by an additional NIS 1.2 billion this year. When the health insurance law went into effect, Clalit had a balanced budget, and Maccabi, Leumit, and Meuhedet were only NIS 200 million in the red.

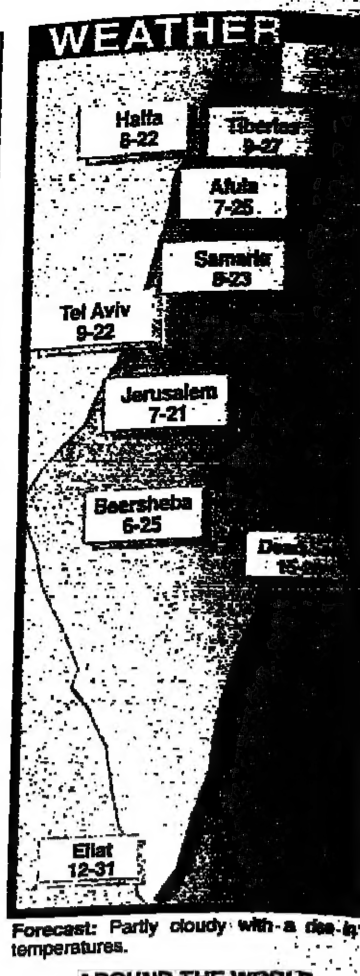
Meanwhile, Clalit's board of directors last night chose Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg, director-general of Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, as its new director-general.

Michaeli and Warmbrand faulted the Treasury, which authorizes the signing of labor agreements that commit them to higher wages and better working conditions for staffers; raising the cost of hospitalization, while not increasing health funds' share of income; failing to cover the real costs of geriatric care; giving the elderly a discount on medications; cancelling the employers' tax that went exclusively to the health funds; and adding new drugs and treatments without supplying extra funds to cover them.

Michaeli and Warmbrand said that in the past, the only way Clalit has succeeded in getting funds it deserved from the Treasury was by going to court.

Clalit will demand that both hospitalization costs and the insurers' compensation from health taxes be updated at a uniform rate, and that the basket of health services be kept at a steady level without erosion.

WEATHER



Forecast: Partly cloudy with a dea in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Berlin	03	37	08	46	cloudy
Buenos Aires	19	66	33	91	clear
Cairo	09	48	23	73	clear
Chicago	02	36	09	48	rain
Copenhagen	00	32	08	46	cloudy
Frankfurt	06	43	10	50	rain
Geneva	03	37	12	54	pcloudy
Helsinki	-04	25	x	x	clear
Hong Kong	20	68	24	75	cloudy
Jo'burg	12	54	20	68	cloudy
Lisbon	14	57	24	75	clear
London	06	43	15	59	clear
Los Angeles	15	59	24	75	clear
Madrid	06	43	21	70	clear
Montreal	01	34	10	50	cloudy
Moscow	-01	30	02	36	cloudy
New York	11	52	11	52	clear
Paris	05	41	15	59	pcloudy
Rome	01	34	14	57	clear
Stockholm	-01	30	08	46	clear
Sydney	18	64	23	73	rain
Tokyo	11	52	25	77	clear
Toronto	00	32	10	50	pcloudy
Vienna	04	39	09	48	pcloudy
Zurich	03	37	08	46	cloudy

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance drawing were the ace of spades, 9 of hearts, king of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

Theater plays down fictional link to Barak

By HELEN KAYE

Beit Lessin theater general manager Tzippi Pines yesterday dismissed as a "pack of lies" an article that appeared in the Hebrew press which reported MK Ehud Barak as the inspiration for the hero of *Arafel* (fog), a docudrama by Matti Golan.

Arafel, which will open between June 1 and15, traces the investigation into a fatal accident at a training base called "Ge'ulim," whose commanding officer is named "Sela." It is based on the 1992 incident at Tze'elim in which six soldiers were killed and seven injured by a missile fired during a training exercise. Barak was chief of general staff at the time.

According to the *Yediot Aharonot* article, the Barak camp is alleged to have been furious, saying that the substance and timing of the play are politically motivated to discredit Barak, who is running for leadership of the Labor Party.

"Absolute rubbish," said Pines firmly. "I liked the play ... and I didn't even think of political consequences."

Golan maintained that he conceived the play "long before the defeat of the Labor Party in the last election and long before Ehud Barak threw his hat in the ring."

Barak spokesman Avivam Balzar reiterated that there is no intention to prevent production of the play.

Appel demands documents from Channel 1

By RAINE MARCUS

Businessman David Appel, currently suing Channel 1 for NIS 5 million for implicating him in the Bar-On Affair, yesterday petitioned Tel Aviv District Court to order relevant documents and tapes handed over.

Appel's attorney, Yehuda Ressler, asked the court to order Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum, news director Rafik Halabi, and journalist Ayala Hasson to disclose documents they said proved their story, which triggered the Bar-On probe.

Ressler said he had sent the three a questionnaire, containing 16 questions, but it was ignored. The questions, which Ressler maintains are relevant to his client's slander suit, include: "How and why did MK Aryeh Deri make his 'Bar-On for Hebron' conditions"; and "who did Channel 1 turn to for confirmation that the story it was about to publish was correct."

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Details of General Conditions :

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   b. Guarantee of abiding by the bid - as detailed in the tender form.
2. The tender documents can be obtained from the Tenders and Orders Department at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem from Sunday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
   The documents will be provided on presentation of a receipt certifying that the above-mentioned sum has been deposited as follows :
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   * For depositors abroad - the deposit should be made in favor of Bezeq's account number 12-901-97633/64 at the Main Branch of Bank Leumi in Jerusalem.
   Payment made for the documents will not be refunded.
   The receipt and details of the supplier, including the certified business number, can be faxed to 972-2-537-8113.
   Confirmation of receipt of the fax can be obtained by telephoning 972-2-539-5614-5
3. Bids should be placed in the tender box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem.
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"YOU WILL FIND NO MORE MOVING ACCOUNT OF WILFUL SELF-DESTRUCTION" Daily Mail

JERUSALEM, Jerusalem Theatre, Rebecca Crown Auditorium: Thur. 27.3.97, 8:30 p.m.: DYLAN THOMAS. Sat. 29.3.97, 8:00 p.m.: TRUMAN CAPOTE. REHOVOT, Ebner Auditorium, Weizmann Institute: Sun. 30.3.97. 8:30 p.m.: DYLAN THOMAS. KFAR-SABA, Sapir Auditorium: Mon. 31.3.97, 8:30 p.m. DYLAN THOMAS. Bet Gabriel at KINNERET: Tues. 1.4.97, 8:30 p.m.: DYLAN THOMAS. BE'ER-SHEVA, Ben-Gurion University, Sonnenfelt Auditorium: Wed. 2.4.97. 8:30 p.m.: TRUMAN CAPOTE. TEL-AVIV, Suzanne Dellal Center: Thur. 3.4.97, 8:30 p.m., Fri. 4.4.97. 10:00 p.m.: DYLAN THOMAS. Sat. 5.4.97. 5:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.: TRUMAN CAPOTE. HAIFA, Technion Cinema Hall: Sun. 6.4.97, 6:00 p.m.: DYLAN THOMAS. 9:00 p.m.: TRUMAN CAPOTE.

BOX OFFICES: TEL-AVIV, Suzanne Dellal Center: 03-5105656, Rokoko: 03-5276699, Hadran: 03-5279797, Kastel: 03-6044725. Lean: 03-5247373. HASHARON: 03-5400551/2. JERUSALEM, Jerusalem Theatre: 02-5610011, Bimot: 02-6234061. Klaim: 02-6256869. Bet Gabriel at KINNERET: 06-6751175. KFAR-SABA: 09-7649230. REHOVOT: 08-9343207, 08-9467890. HAIFA: Garber 04-8384777, 8292432. BE'ER-SHEVA: Ben-Gurion University, 07-6472340.

BOX OFFICES FOR ISRACARD CAMPAIGN: TEL-AVIV, Suzanne Dellal Center: 03-5105656. JERUSALEM, Jerusalem Theatre: 02-5610011. HAIFA, Garber: 04-8384777. KFAR-SABA. BEER SHEVA & REHOVOT, Rokoko: 03-5276699.

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POST

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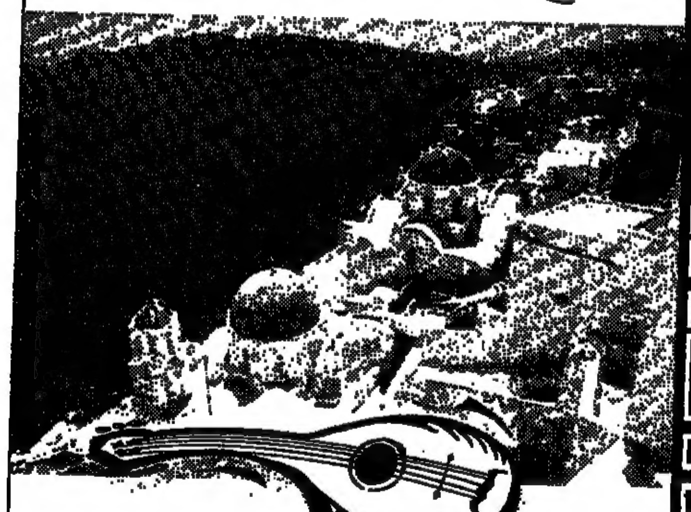

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On all matters connected with this notice please contact the Suppliers' Authorization Division, fax: 04-8615514.

The last date for submission of bids is May 4, 1997 at 11 a.m.

Bids for the supply of the above information should be submitted in closed envelopes to the Israel Electric Corporation, The Suppliers' Authorization Unit, 11 Shderot Pal Yam, Floor 7, Room 702, by the last submission date, which appears above.

Our offices will be closed from April 20 - 28 1997 for the Passover holiday.

هكذا من الأجل